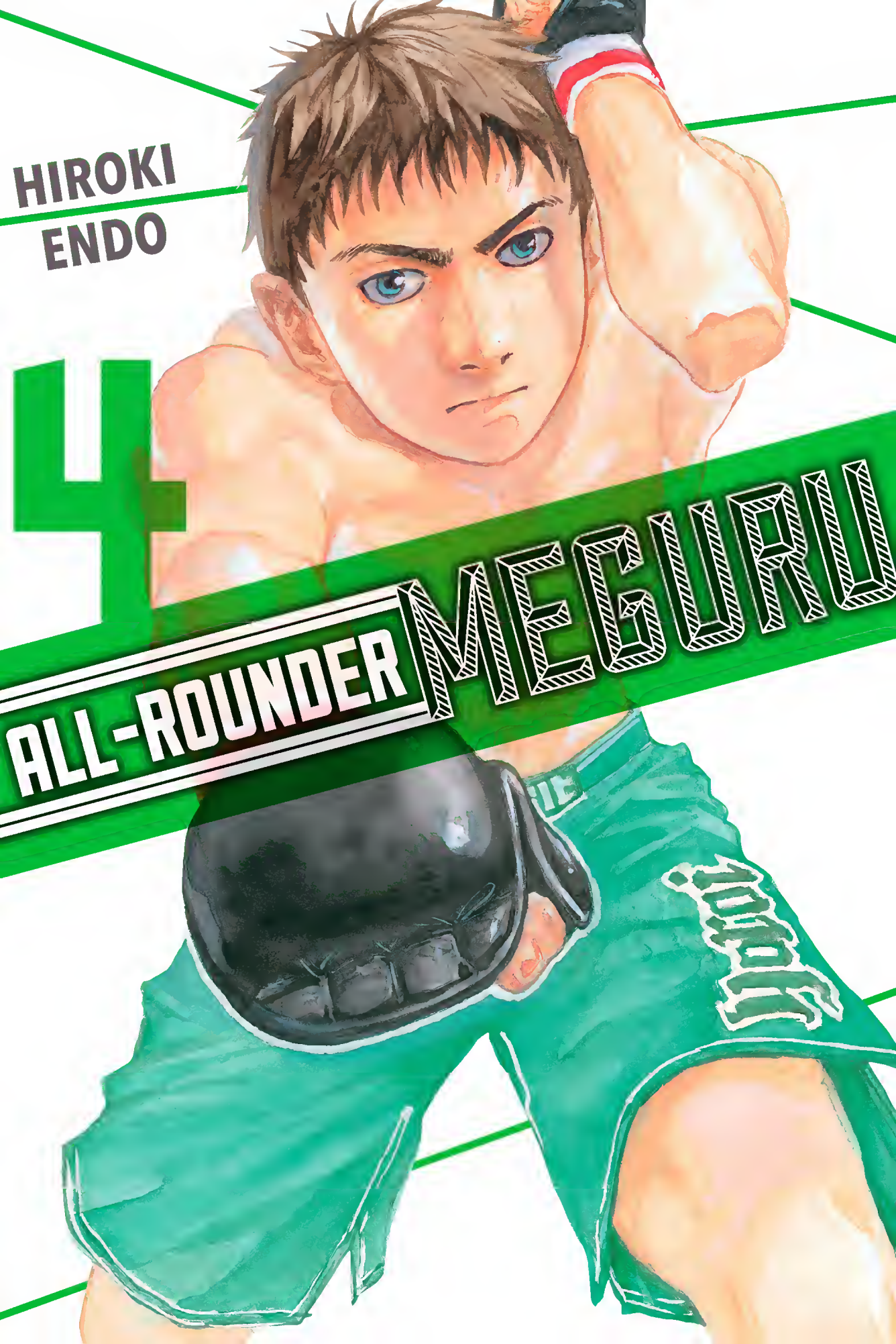
HIROKI ENDO

4 ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU



4
ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU
HIROKI ENDO

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 4
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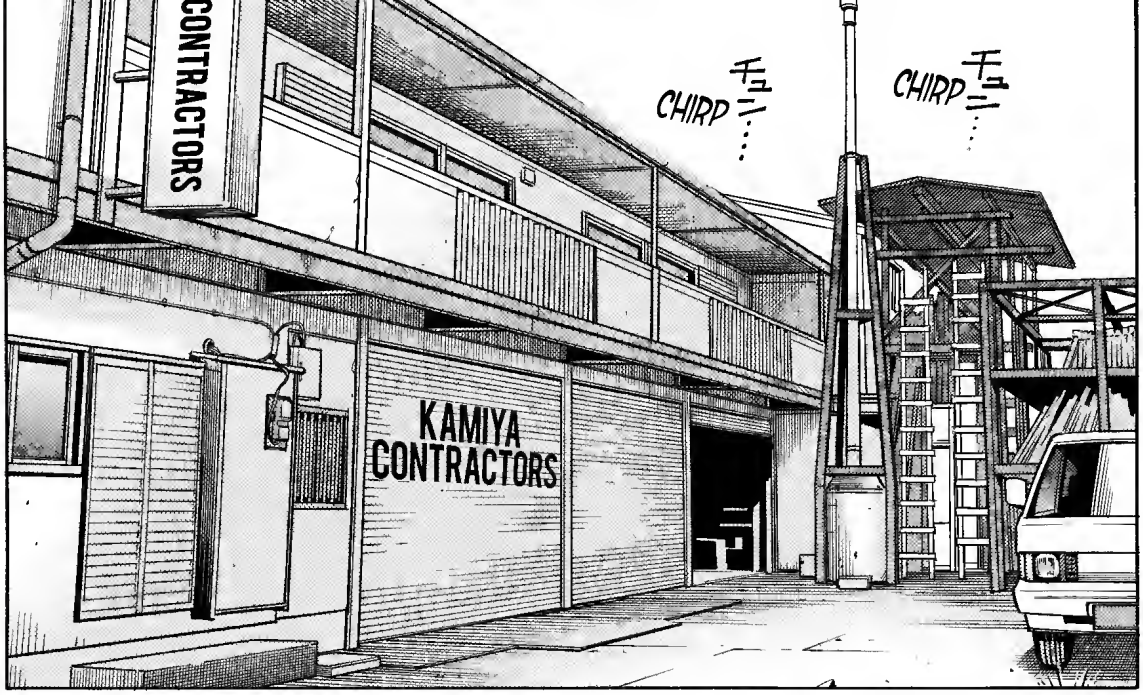
PRODUCTION STAFF

HIROFUMI NIIHARA | KAZUKIYO YAMAMOTO

CH. 29 | START OF THE KANTO TOURNAMENT

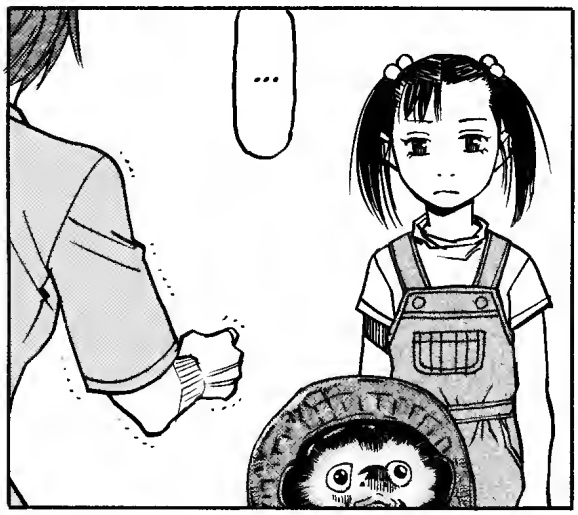

CONTRACTORS
KAMIYA CONTRACTORS
CHIRP チュン…
CHIRP チュン…

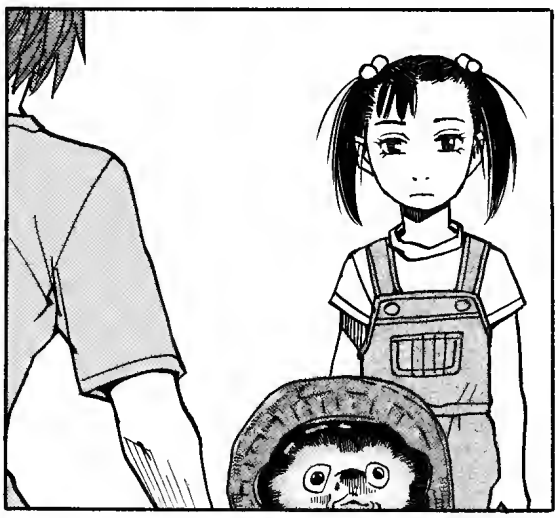
…CHAN.
MHM…

NGAAAH…
FOOO…

DOMF
ドサッ

IT'S MORNING.
MAKI NEE-CHAN.
GASP


...

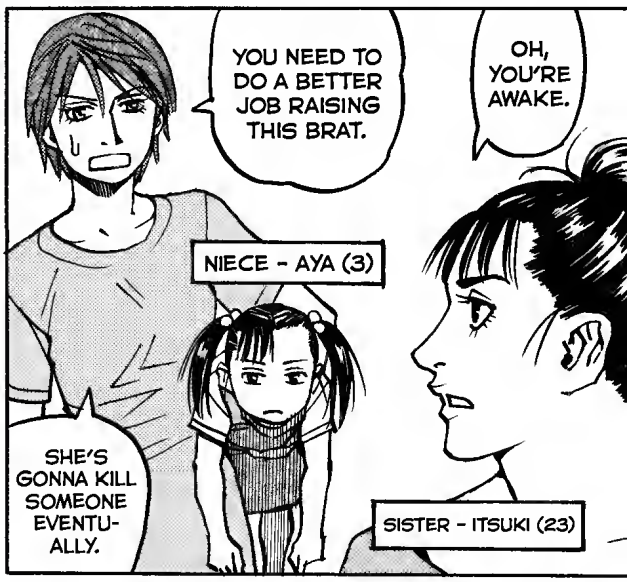


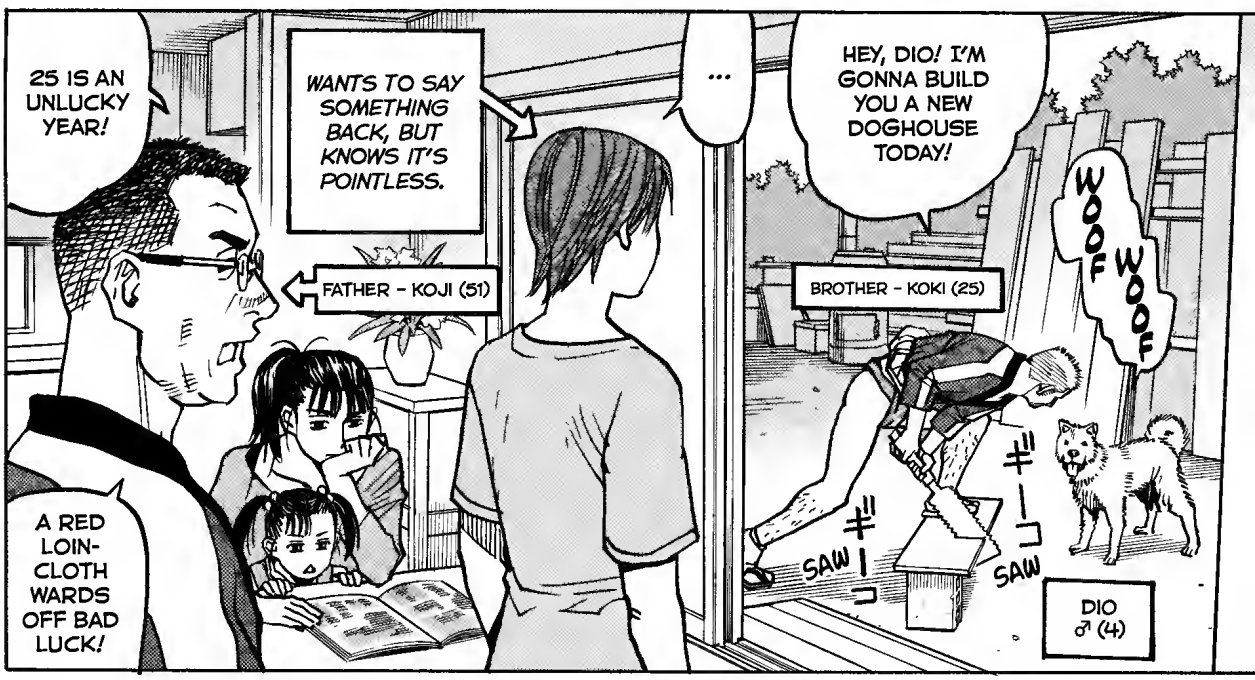
WHAT NUT HAS NO SHELL?
...A DOUGH-NUT.

QUIZ TIME.

KAMIYA CONTRA
SHE NEARLY PUT ME TO SLEEP FOREVER!
AS AN ASSAS-SIN?
AND HERE I SENT YOUR CUTE LITTLE NIECE TO WAKE YOU UP.
WHAT?
MAKI! DON'T COME DOWNSTAIRS DRESSED LIKE A SLOB!

SIIIIS!
PITTER
PATTER

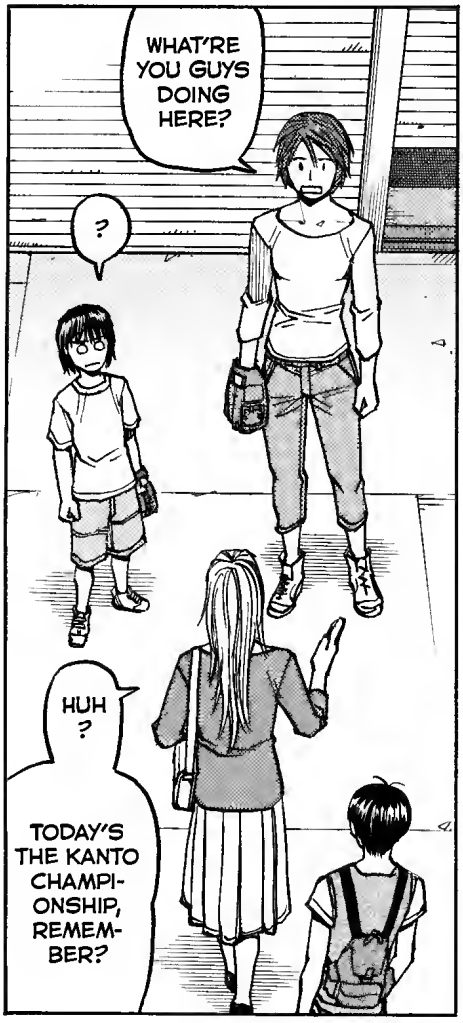

YOU NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB RAISING THIS BRAT.
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
NIECE - AYA (3)
SHE'S GONNA KILL SOMEONE EVENTU-ALLY.
SISTER - ITSUKI (23)

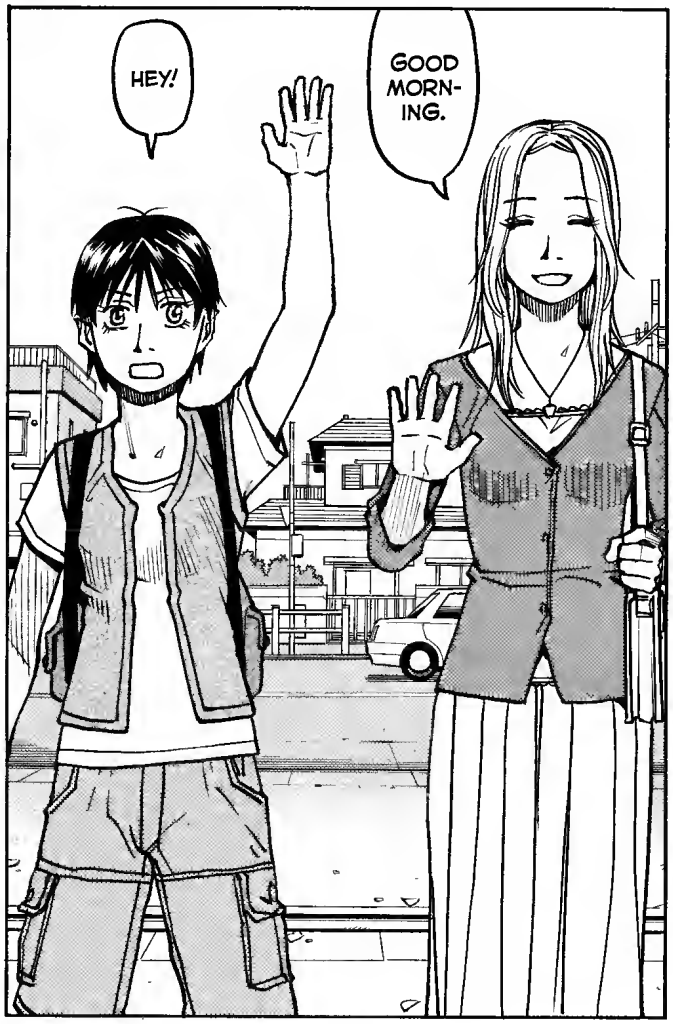

25 IS AN UNLUCKY YEAR!
WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING BACK, BUT KNOWS IT'S POINTLESS.
FATHER - KOJI (51)
A RED LOIN-CLOTH WARDS OFF BAD LUCK!
...
HEY, DIO! I'M GONNA BUILD YOU A NEW DOGHOUSE TODAY!
BROTHER - KOKI (25)
WOOF WOOF
ギーコ
SAW
ギーコ
SAW
DIO ♂ (4)

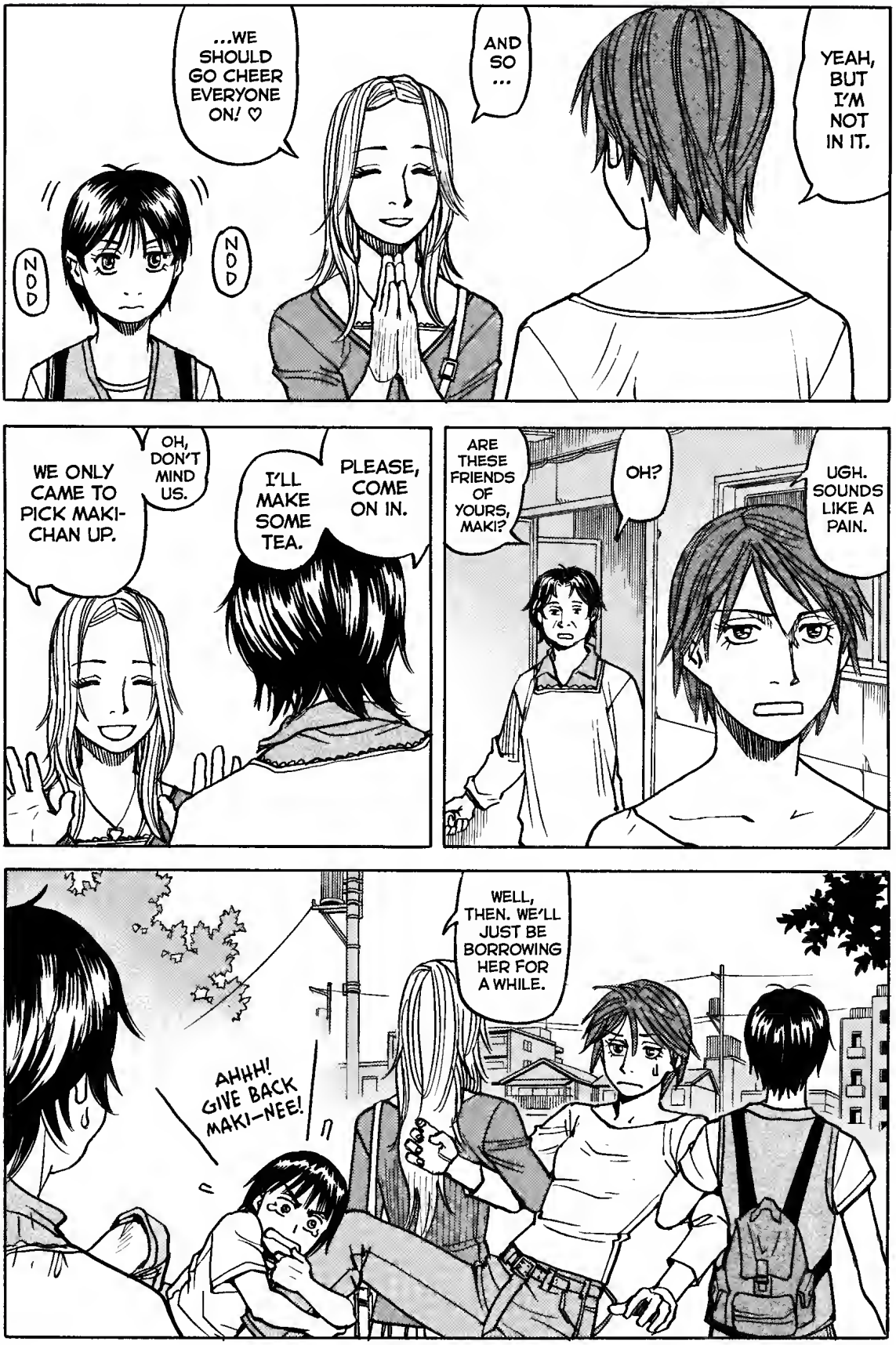
SISTER-IN-LAW YUI (24)
OOOH.
SO FAST.
D'AAAH.
WOW! YOU'RE SO GOOD AT WALKING, SHO!
NEPHEW - SHO (1)
SO GO GET DRESSED, MAKI!
I'LL WARM UP SOME MISO SOUP FOR YOU.
'KAY.
MOTHER - TAKAKO (49)
I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
AW, SHUT UP AND PUT SOME PANTS ON ALREADY!
HEY, ITSUKI! IF YOU'RE GONNA MOVE BACK IN, THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS HELP WITH THE HOUSEWORK!
AAAH!
AT LEAST LET ME EAT BREAKFAST FIRST.
GAAAH
AH! YOU'RE UP, MAKI-NEE!
LET'S PLAY CATCH!
NEPHEW - EIICHI (6)

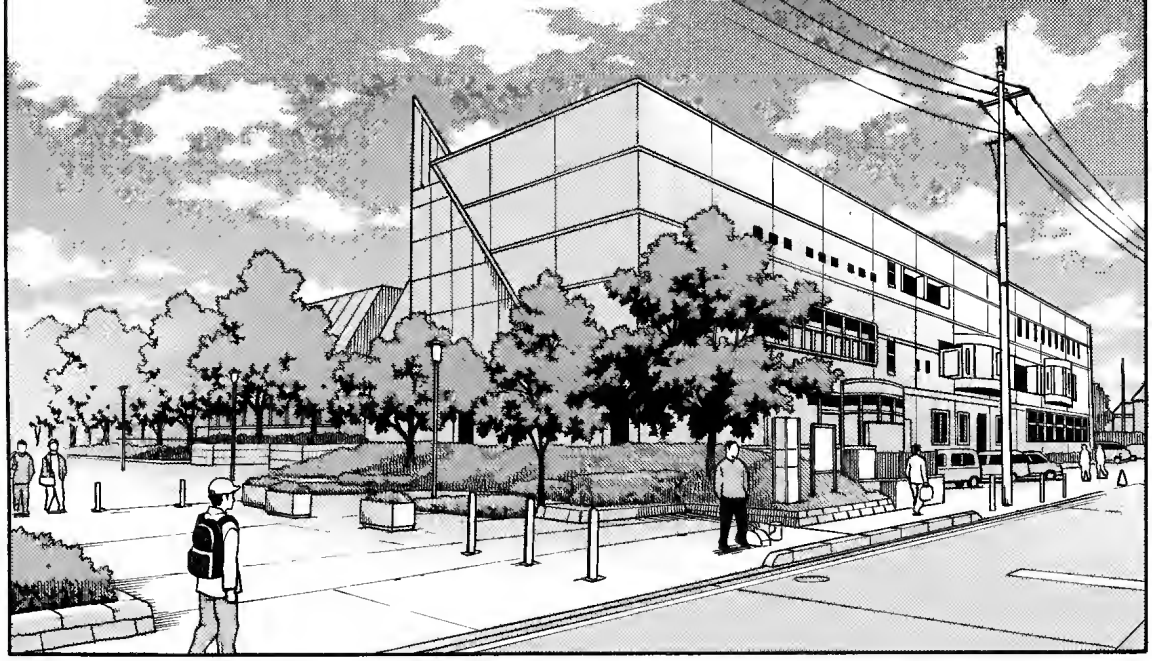
MAKI-CHAAAN.
?!

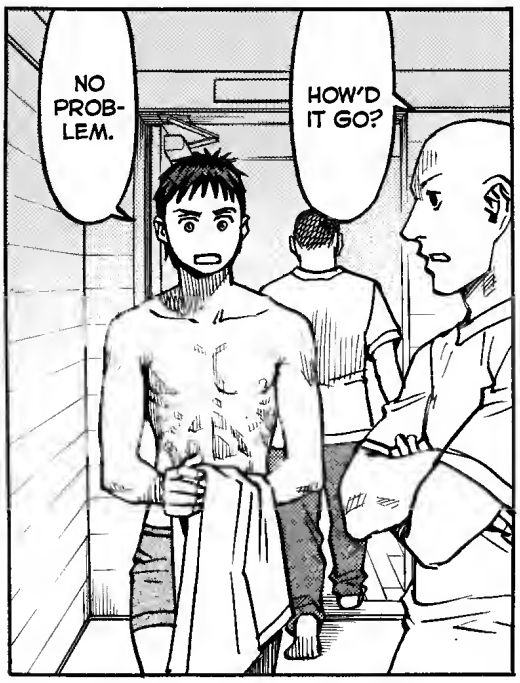
WHAP

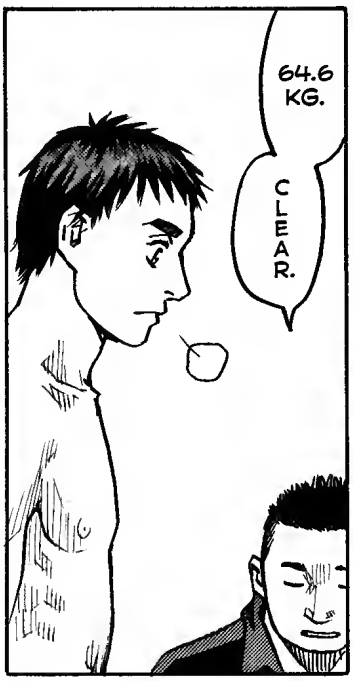

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
?
HUH ?
TODAY'S THE KANTO CHAMPI-ONSHIP, REMEM-BER?

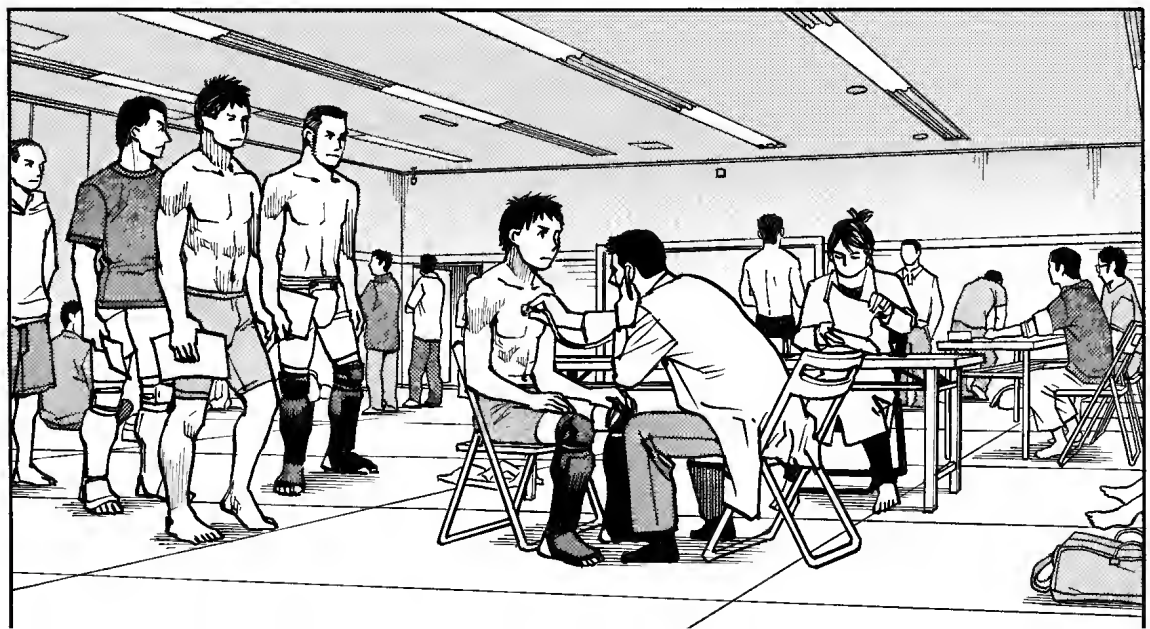

HEY!
GOOD MORN-ING.

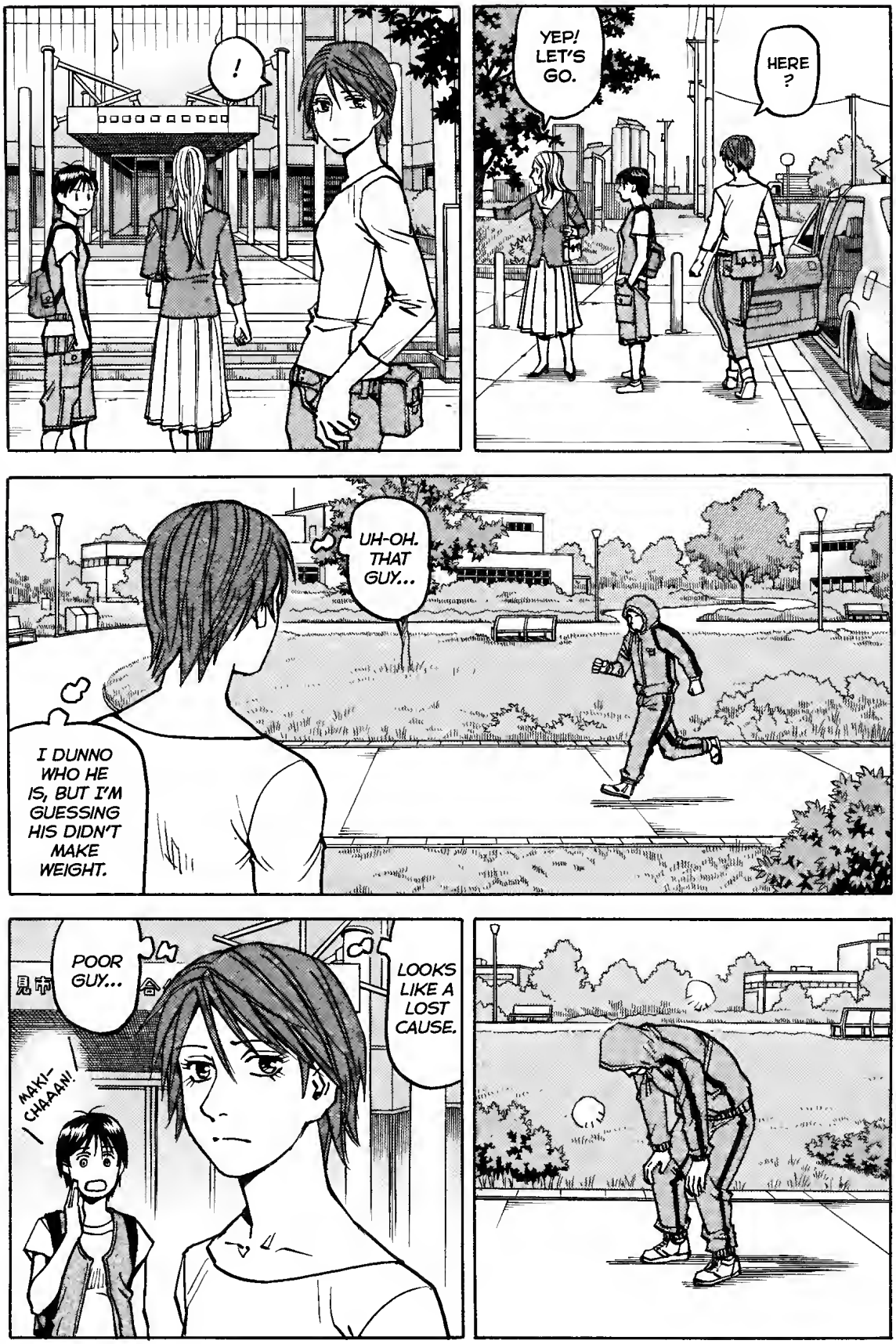

YEAH, BUT I'M NOT IN IT.
AND SO ...
...WE SHOULD GO CHEER EVERYONE ON! ♡
NOD
NOD
UGH. SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.
OH?
ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS, MAKI?
PLEASE, COME ON IN.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
OH, DON'T MIND US.
WE ONLY CAME TO PICK MAKI-CHAN UP.
WELL, THEN. WE'LL JUST BE BORROWING HER FOR A WHILE.
AHHH! GIVE BACK MAKI-NEE!



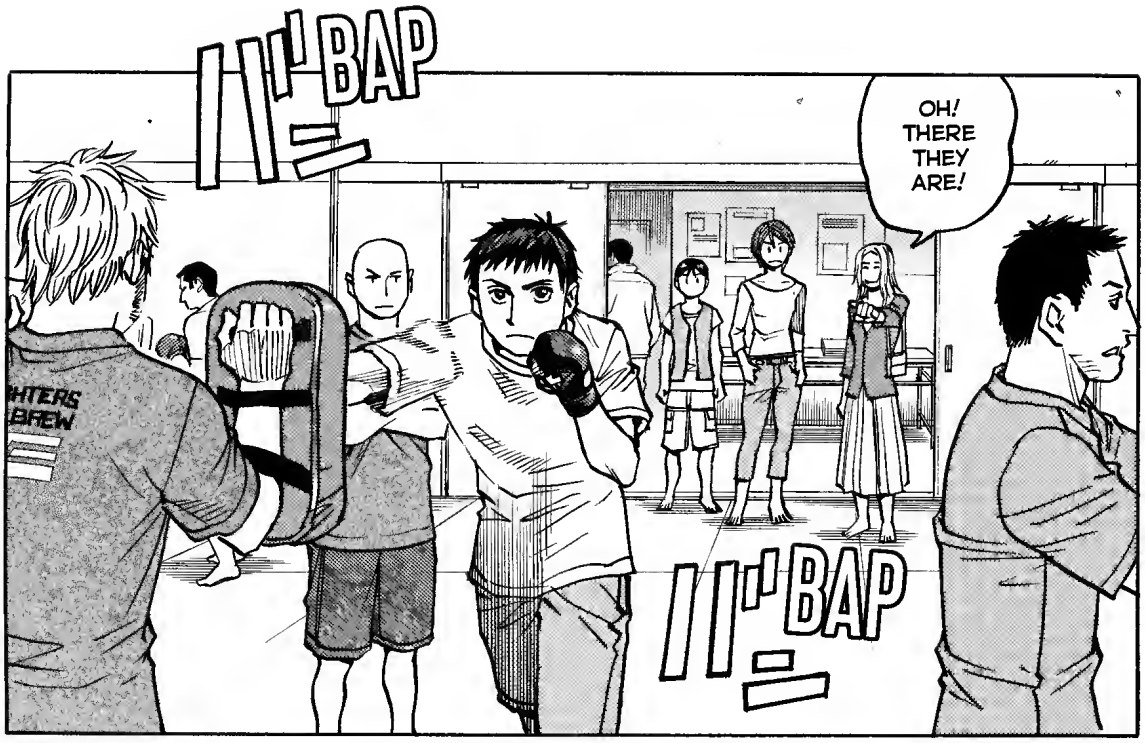

NO PROB-LEM.
HOW'D IT GO?


64.6 KG.
CLEAR.

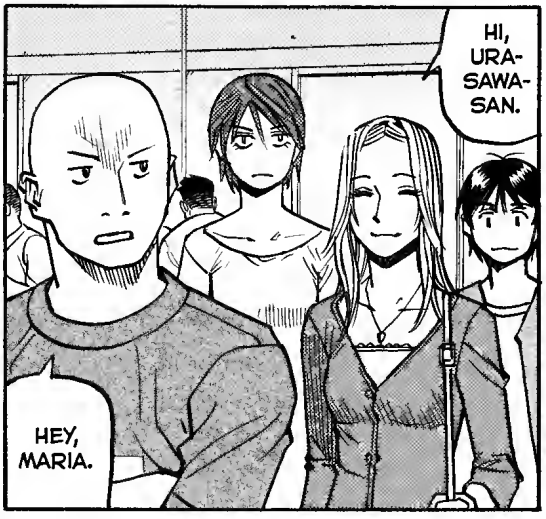


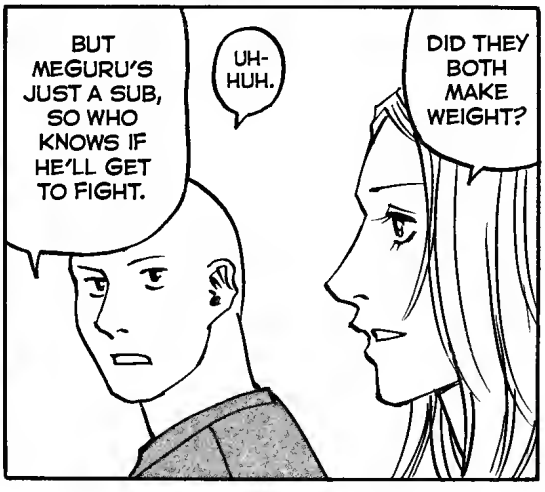

!
YEP! LET'S GO.
HERE ?
UH-OH. THAT GUY...
I DUNNO WHO HE IS, BUT I'M GUESSING HIS DIDN'T MAKE WEIGHT.
POOR GUY...
LOOKS LIKE A LOST CAUSE.
MAKI-CHAAAN!

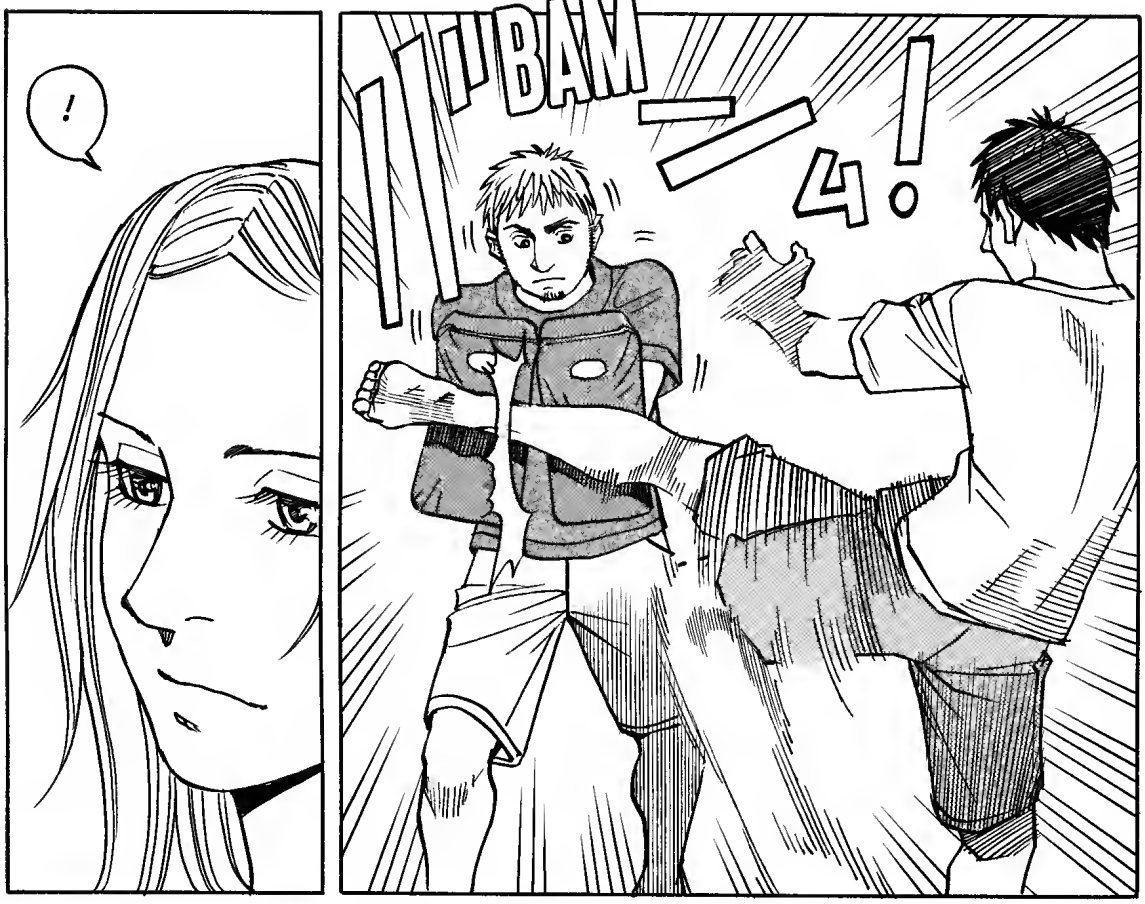
MEGURU.
TIME TO START WARMING UP.
OH.
OKAY.
FIGHTERS BREW
HUH? WHERE'S YUDAI?
FURUYA'S GOT HIM ON A DIFFERENT ROUTINE.
WHY NOT JUST DO IT TOGETHER?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS ON A DIFFERENT PEAKING ROUTINE, TOO.

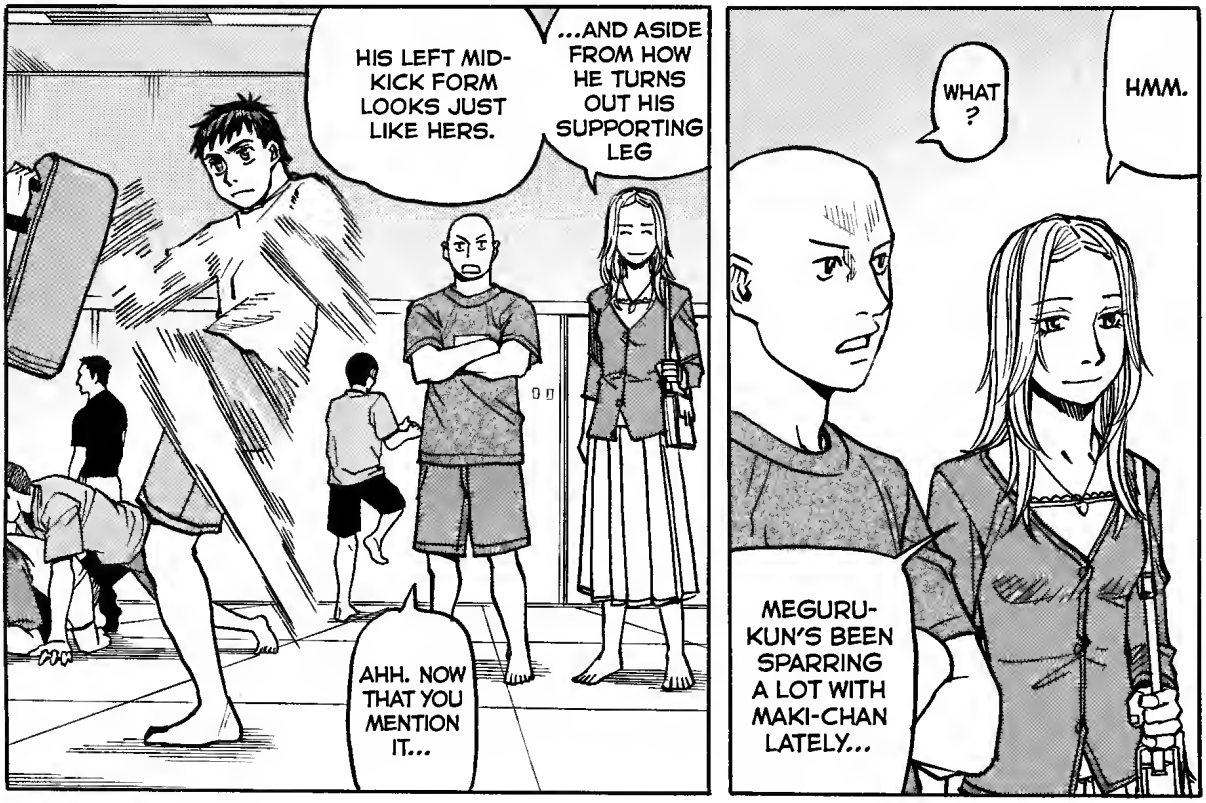

BAP
OH! THERE THEY ARE!
BAP

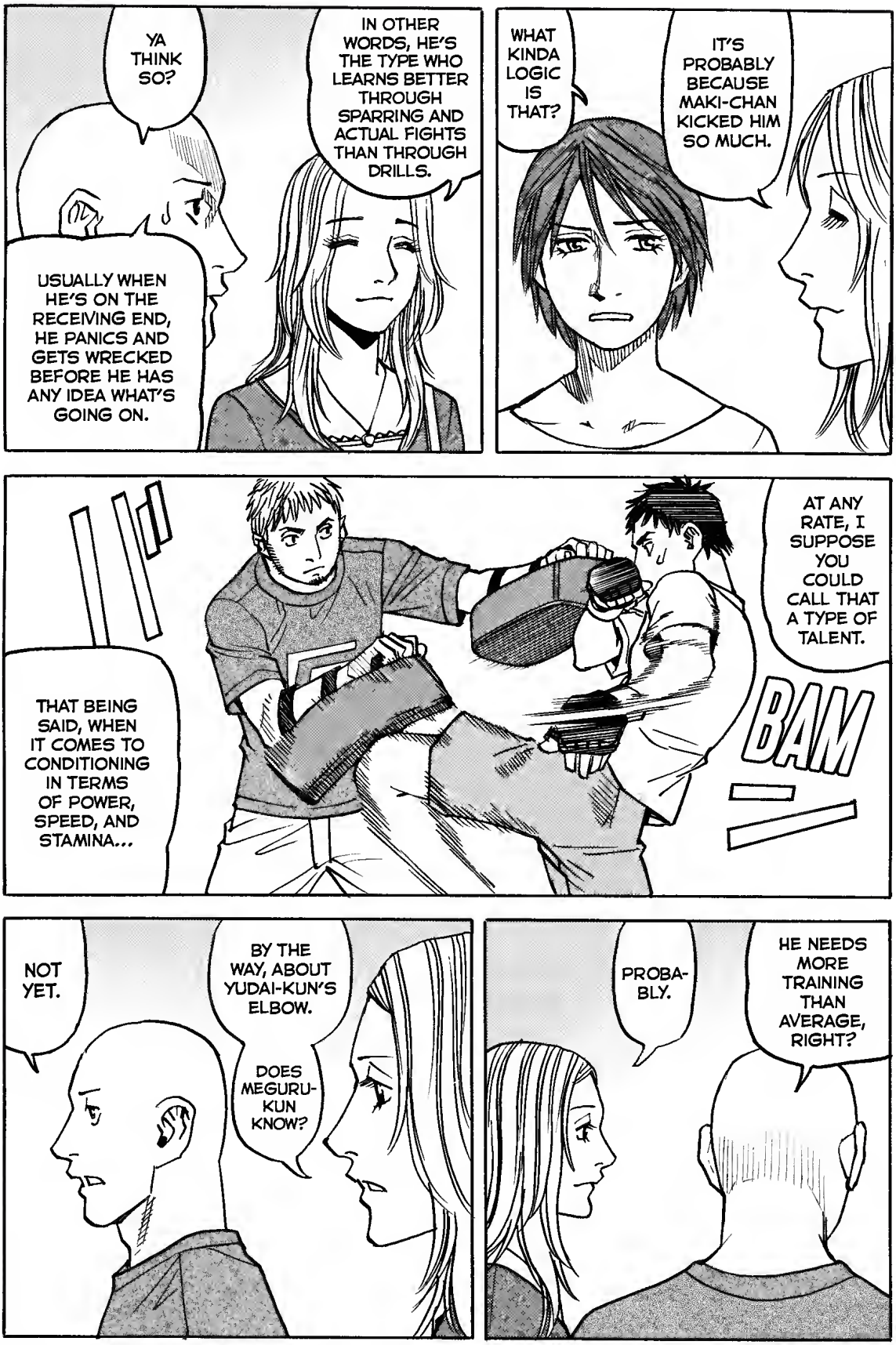
OKAY. ONE-TWO, MID!
BAP
BAP


HI, URA-SAWA-SAN.
HEY, MARIA.


BUT MEGURU'S JUST A SUB, SO WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL GET TO FIGHT.
UH-HUH.
DID THEY BOTH MAKE WEIGHT?


!
BAM
4!

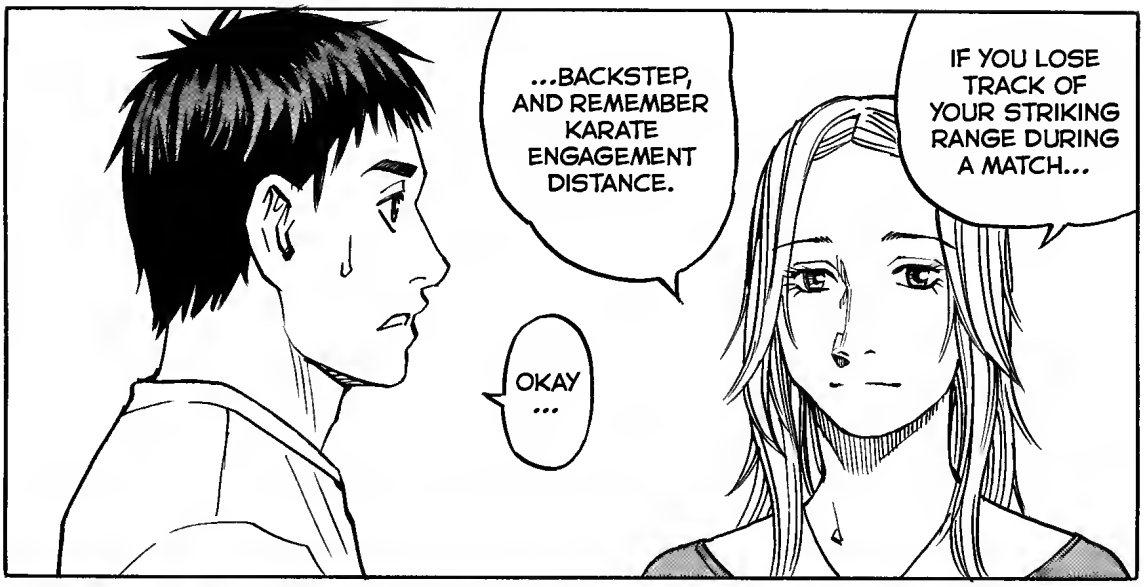

HMM.
WHAT?
MEGURU-KUN'S BEEN SPARRING A LOT WITH MAKI-CHAN LATELY...
...AND ASIDE FROM HOW HE TURNS OUT HIS SUPPORTING LEG
HIS LEFT MID-KICK FORM LOOKS JUST LIKE HERS.
AHH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

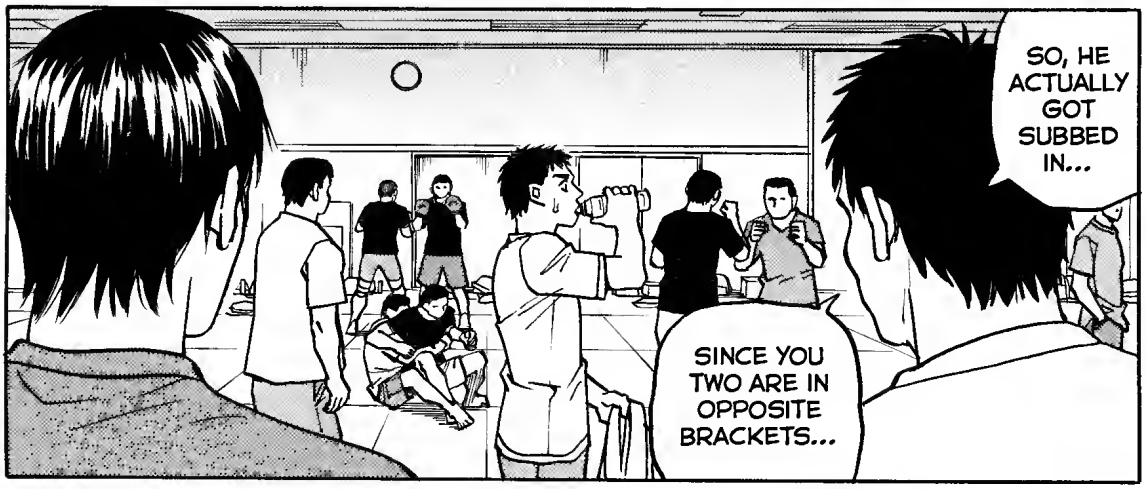

YA THINK SO?
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S THE TYPE WHO LEARNS BETTER THROUGH SPARRING AND ACTUAL FIGHTS THAN THROUGH DRILLS.
USUALLY WHEN HE'S ON THE RECEIVING END, HE PANICS AND GETS WRECKED BEFORE HE HAS ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON.
WHAT KINDA LOGIC IS THAT?
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE MAKI-CHAN KICKED HIM SO MUCH.
AT ANY RATE, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THAT A TYPE OF TALENT.
BAM
THAT BEING SAID, WHEN IT COMES TO CONDITIONING IN TERMS OF POWER, SPEED, AND STAMINA...
NOT YET.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT YUDAI-KUN'S ELBOW.
DOES MEGURU-KUN KNOW?
PROBA-BLY.
HE NEEDS MORE TRAINING THAN AVERAGE, RIGHT?

REGARD-
LESS, IT'LL
BECOME
OBVIOUS
AS SOON
AS HE'S IN
THE RING.
YUDAI
MADE
US KEEP
QUIET
ABOUT IT.
SHOOTO
...
SHOOTO
IT'S THE
GUY WHO
WAS OUT
RUNNING.
OH.

THE RULES MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 11:10.
WE WILL NOW BE ENDING WEIGH-INS.
...
...BY MEGURU TAKA-YANAGI!
OOH ...
...WILL BE SUBBED IN...
THAT'S GREAT, ME-GURU!
...BOTH FAILING THEIR WEIGH-INS...
IN ADDITION, DUE TO LIGHTWEIGHT NAKAMURA AND MIDDLE-WEIGHT OSAKI...
AS SUCH, LIGHT-WEIGHT MATCH 17 ...
...THEY ARE HEREBY DISQUALI-FIED.

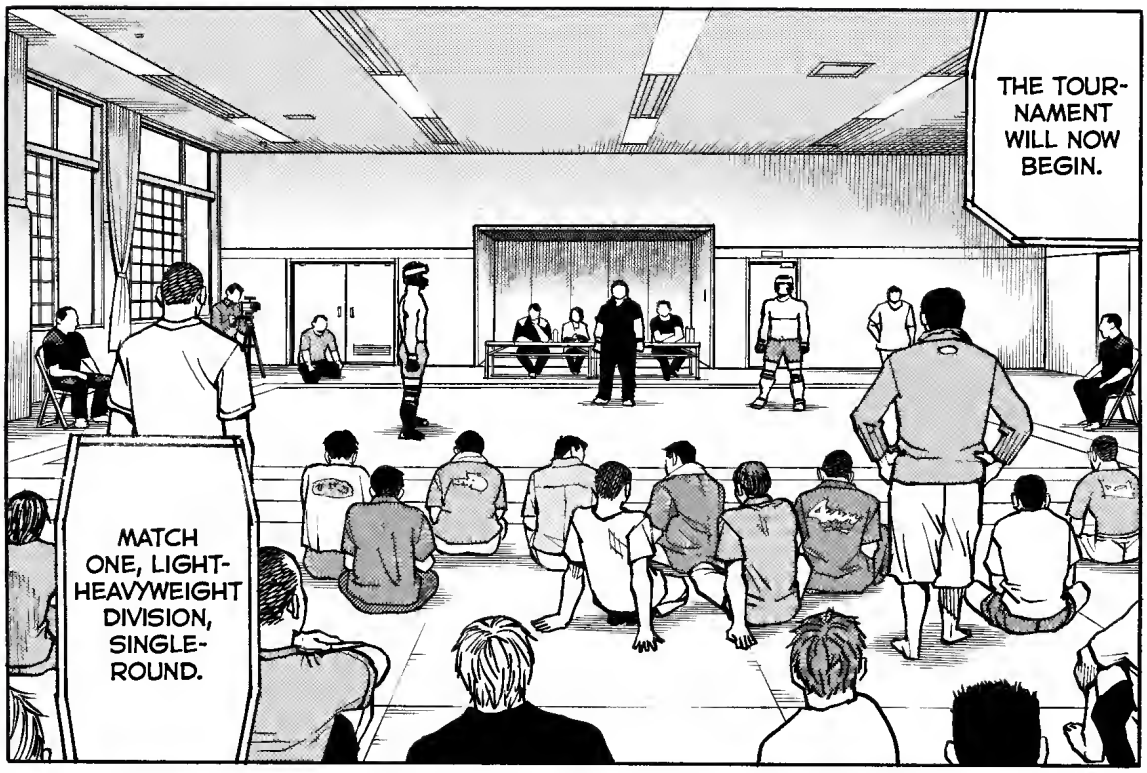
WHIF
...
MIDDLE-WEIGHT MATCH 4 WILL BE...
OH, CRAP.
I'M GETTING NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN.
PANIC
PANIC
KEEP SHADOW-BOXING, MEGURU.
ME-GURU-KUN.
YES?
WAS THE KARATE YOU LEARNED IN GRADE SCHOOL FULL-CON-TACT OR TRADITIONAL?
MY SENSEI TAUGHT TRADITIONAL, BUT I ENTERED FULL-CONTACT TOURNAMENTS, TOO.
AHH.
NO WON-DER.
TRADI-TIONAL.
UHH ...
WHICH MAKES IT EASIER TO THROW LEFT BODY BLOWS?
JUMPING IN FROM A DISTANCE ...

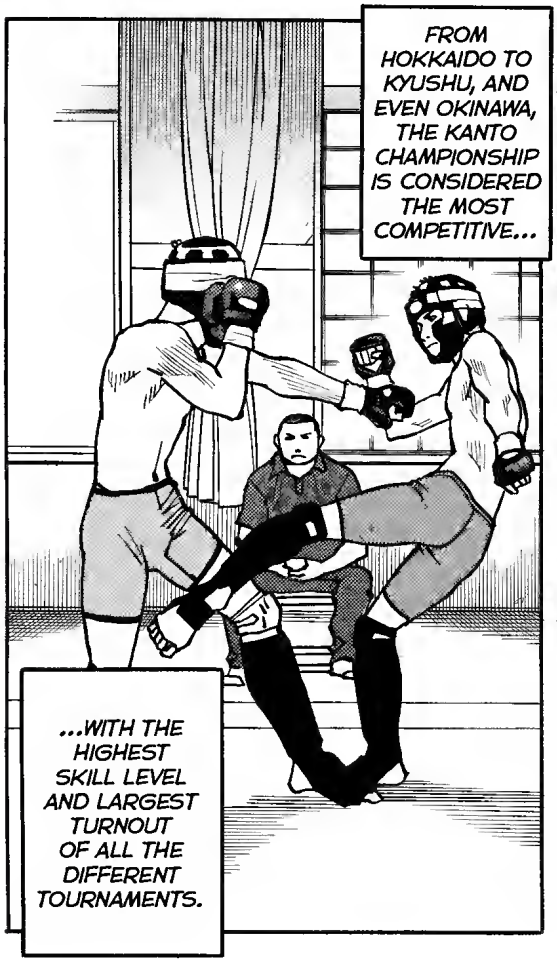

IF YOU LOSE TRACK OF YOUR STRIKING RANGE DURING A MATCH...
...BACKSTEP, AND REMEMBER KARATE ENGAGEMENT DISTANCE.
OKAY ...


SO, HE ACTUALLY GOT SUBBED IN...
SINCE YOU TWO ARE IN OPPOSITE BRACKETS...

...

...YOU WON'T FIGHT EACH OTHER UNTIL THE FINALS.
I DOUBT HE'LL MAKE IT THAT FAR, THOUGH.


THE TOURNAMENT WILL NOW BEGIN.
MATCH ONE, LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.


FROM HOKKAIDO TO KYUSHU, AND EVEN OKINAWA, THE KANTO CHAMPIONSHIP IS CONSIDERED THE MOST COMPETITIVE...
...WITH THE HIGHEST SKILL LEVEL AND LARGEST TURNOUT OF ALL THE DIFFERENT TOURNAMENTS.

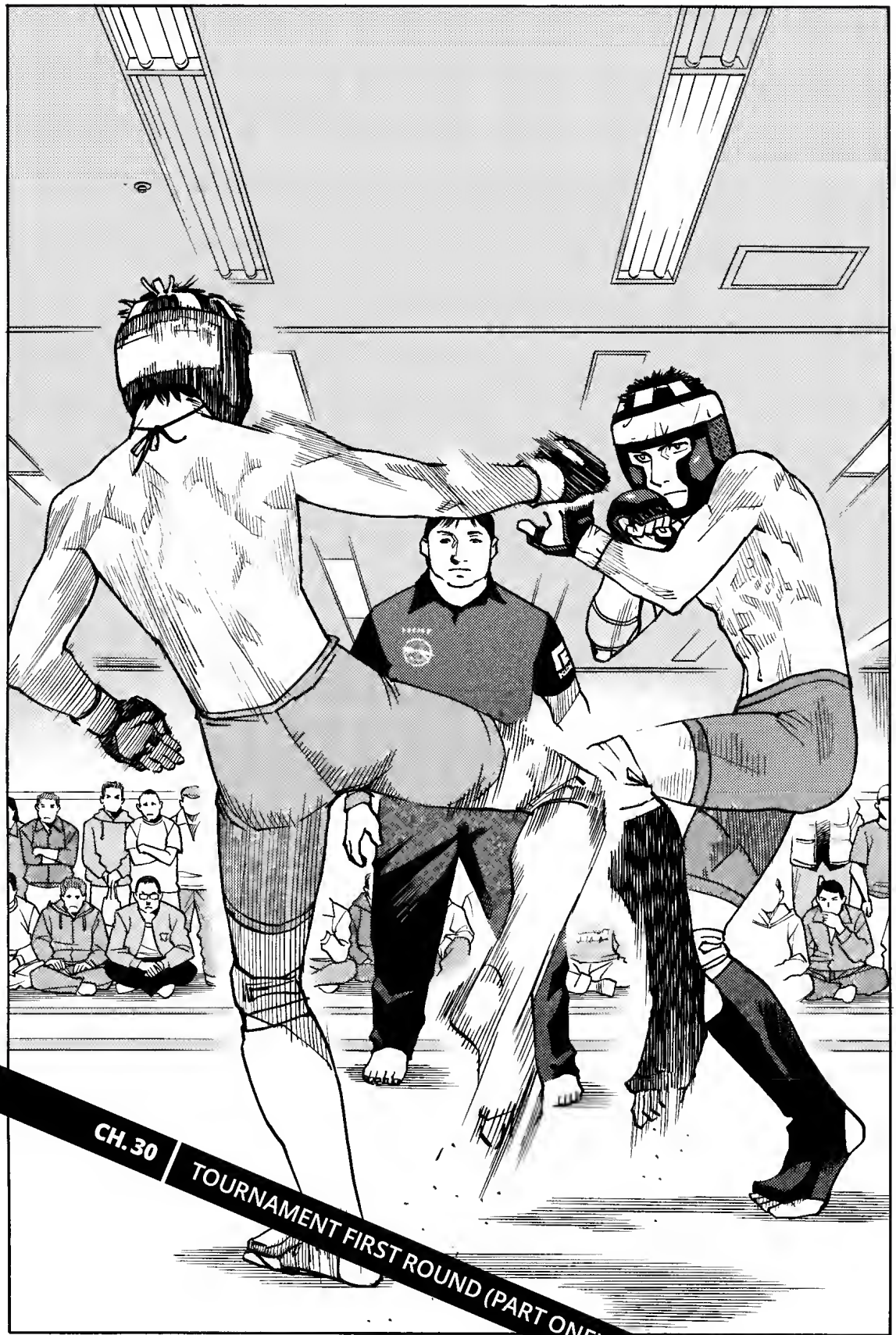
IN PREPARATION FOR THE AMATEUR SHOOTO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN SEPTEMBER...
...OVER TEN PRELIMINARY TOURNAMENTS ARE HOSTED THROUGHOUT JAPAN, BEGINNING IN JUNE.

...BLUE CORNER, KISHIDA.
WINNER, 26-28
ONLY THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS MAY MOVE ON TO THE NATIONALS...
...AND THOSE WHO PRODUCE GOOD RESULTS EARN THE RIGHT TO GO PRO.
GOT IT.
ALL RIGHT, YUDAI. GET READY.
!

...
HUH?
ER...
YUDAI?
DON'T TELL ME...
FROM *THEN*?
TAKESHI-SAN, IS THAT...?
YOU'RE ALMOST UP, TOO.
FOCUS.
DOES EVERY-ONE KNOW...?
WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU SINCE IT'D MAKE YOU WORRY.
I SAID IT'D HAVE THE OP-POSITE EFFECT, THOUGH...

NOR-MALLY YOU'D BE RIGHT...
HE CAN'T COM-PETE LIKE THAT!
...BUT I GUESS HE MAN-AGED TO CONVINCE FURUYA-SAN.
HOW BAD IS IT?
HE'S GOT AN INJURED LIGAMENT IN HIS RIGHT ELBOW.
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTER'S BREW...
MATCH 12, LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.
...YUDAI KITA-MURA.

...
WHAT GOOD'S FIGHTING WITH AN INJURY GONNA DO?
...
SHEESH.
HIS MIND'S NOT ON HIS OWN MATCH ANYMORE.
DING
FIGHT!
FIGHTERS BREW

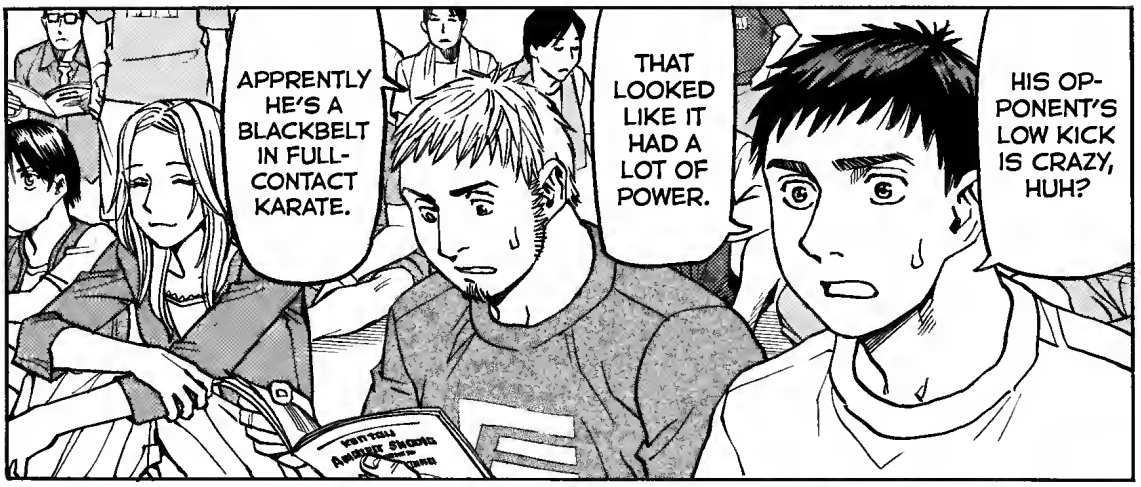


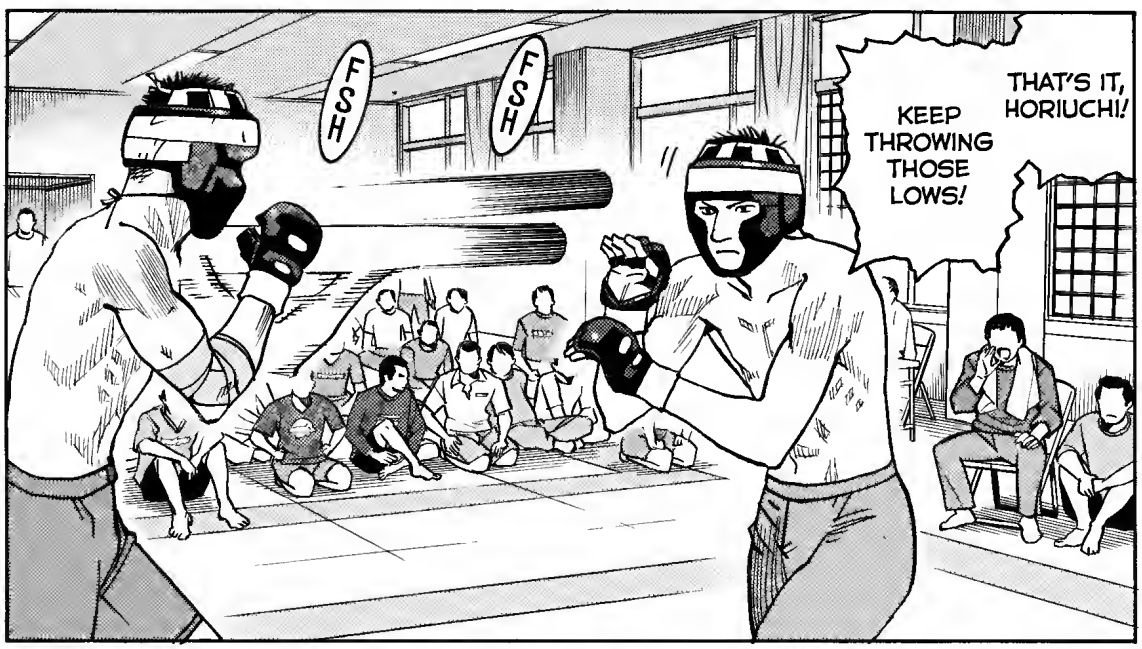
CH. 30 | TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART ONE)

BAM

WATCH HIS HIGH KICK!
DON'T DROP YOUR GUARD, YUDAI!

ERGH!
SHAKE
SHAKE


HIS OPPONENT'S LOW KICK IS CRAZY, HUH?
THAT LOOKED LIKE IT HAD A LOT OF POWER.
APPRENTLY HE'S A BLACKBELT IN FULL-CONTACT KARATE.

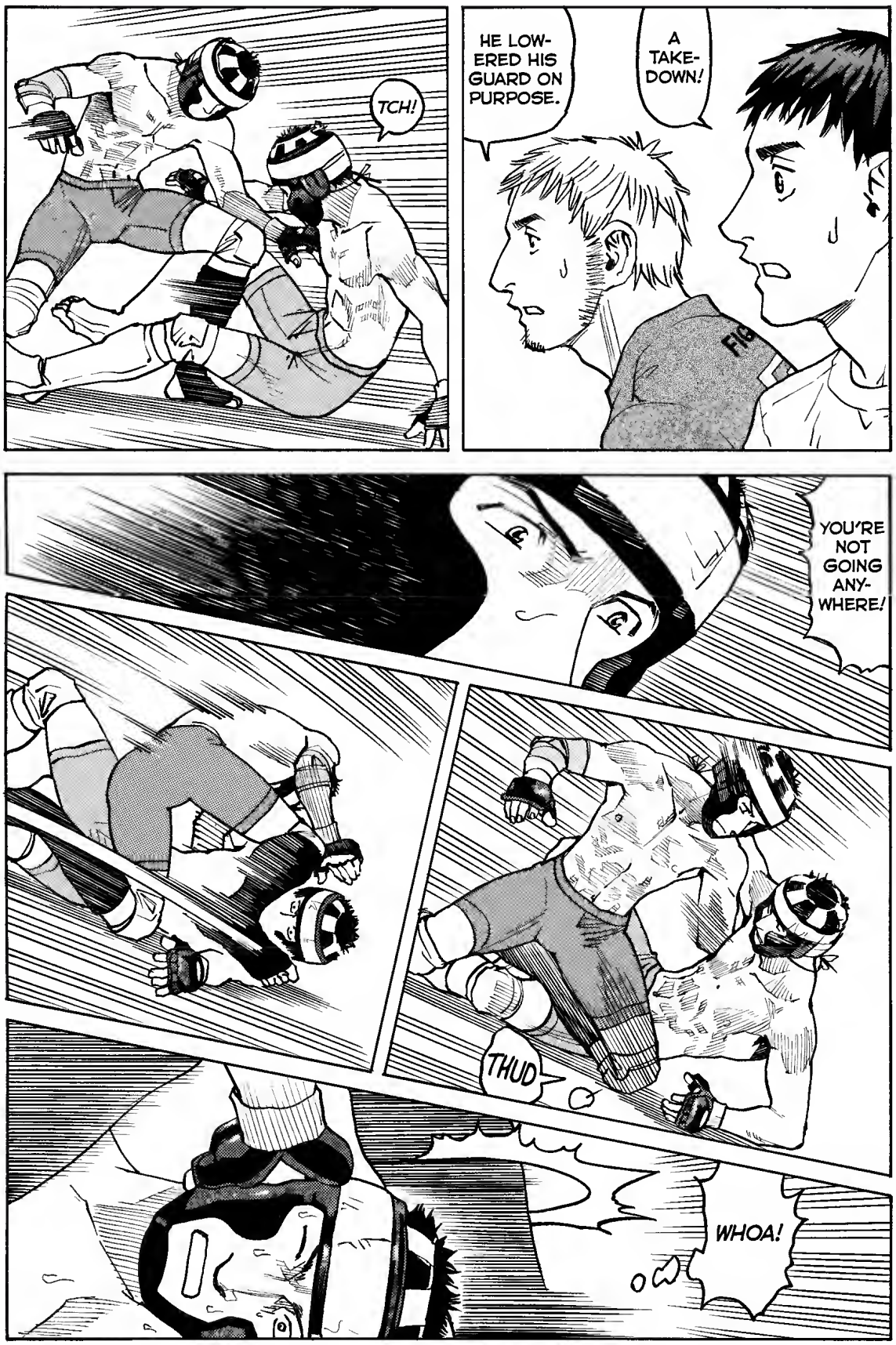

THAT'S IT, HORIUCHI!
KEEP THROWING THOSE LOWS!
FSH
FSH

YUDAI'S IN RANGE FOR HIS RIGHT STRAIGHT, BUT HE CAN'T THROW IT...
HE'LL PUT TOO MUCH STRESS ON HIS ELBOW IF IT DOESN'T LAND.

BAM

HE LOW-ERED HIS GUARD ...
...HOPING TO CATCH MY LOW KICK.
ALL RIGHT.
HERE I GO ...
SHOOTO

WHISH
THUD
!


TCH!
HE LOW-ERED HIS GUARD ON PURPOSE.
A TAKE-DOWN!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!
THUD
WHOA!

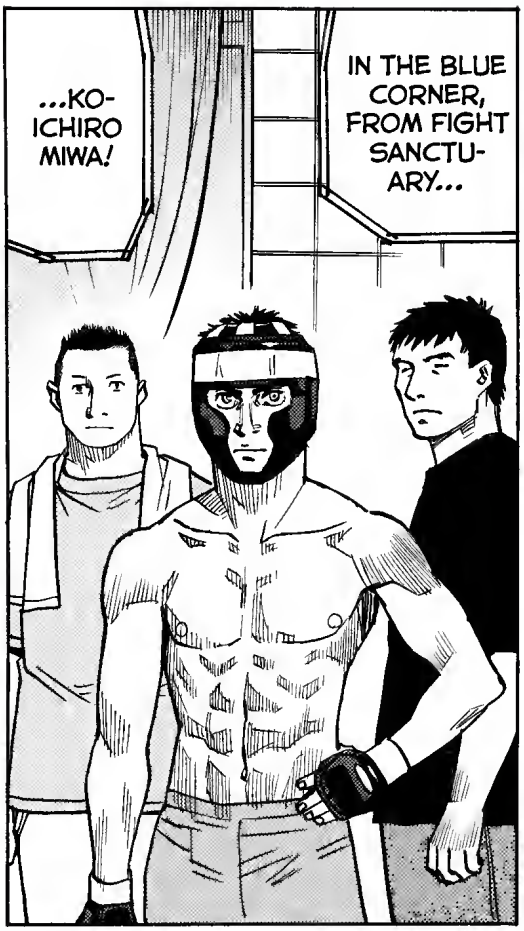
LATCH
SQUEAK
WHIP
SHOOTO
PA-T PA-T

THAT ARMBAR WAS SO FAST I COULD BARELY SEE IT.
IS HE REALLY INJURED?
...
DING
DING
DING
DING
STOP!
!
THAT WAS GUTSY.
... YES.
DID YOU BAIT THE HIGH KICK ON PURPOSE?
FIGHTERS BREW

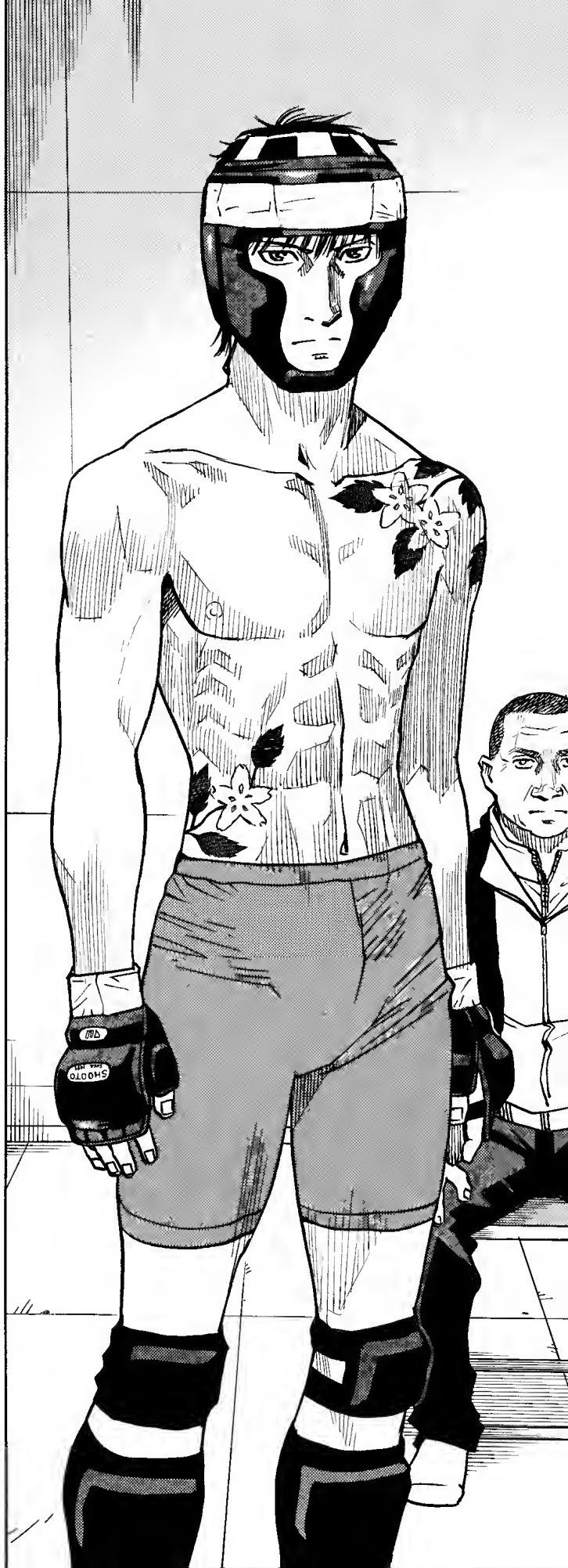
GO TIME, ME-GURU.
...
YU-DAI?
HUH?
UM...
YOU'D BETTER WIN.
...
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT YOU IN THE DARK.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

YUDAI.
AMATEUR SHOOTO ISN'T SOME HIGH-SCHOOL CLUB.
BELIEVE ME, I TRIED TO...
THE OLDEST ENTRANT THIS YEAR IS 36.
IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN KEEP FIGHTING INTO YOUR TWENTIES AND THIRTIES.
...
BUT IF YOU GO IN WITH A BAD ELBOW AND MAKE IT WORSE...
...YOU COULD LOSE HALF A YEAR.

THAT, I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT IS HE SO STUCK ON?
HE HASN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING?
BUT HE STILL INSISTED ON COMPETING?
YUP ...
NO ...
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM KOGURE DOJO, TAKASHI YAMABUKI.
!
MATCH 15, LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.


IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHT SANCTU-ARY...
...KO-ICHIRO MIWA!

STICK TO WHAT WE PRAC-TICED AND YOU'RE GOLD-EN.
IF YOU TAKE HIM DOWN, DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
OKAY!



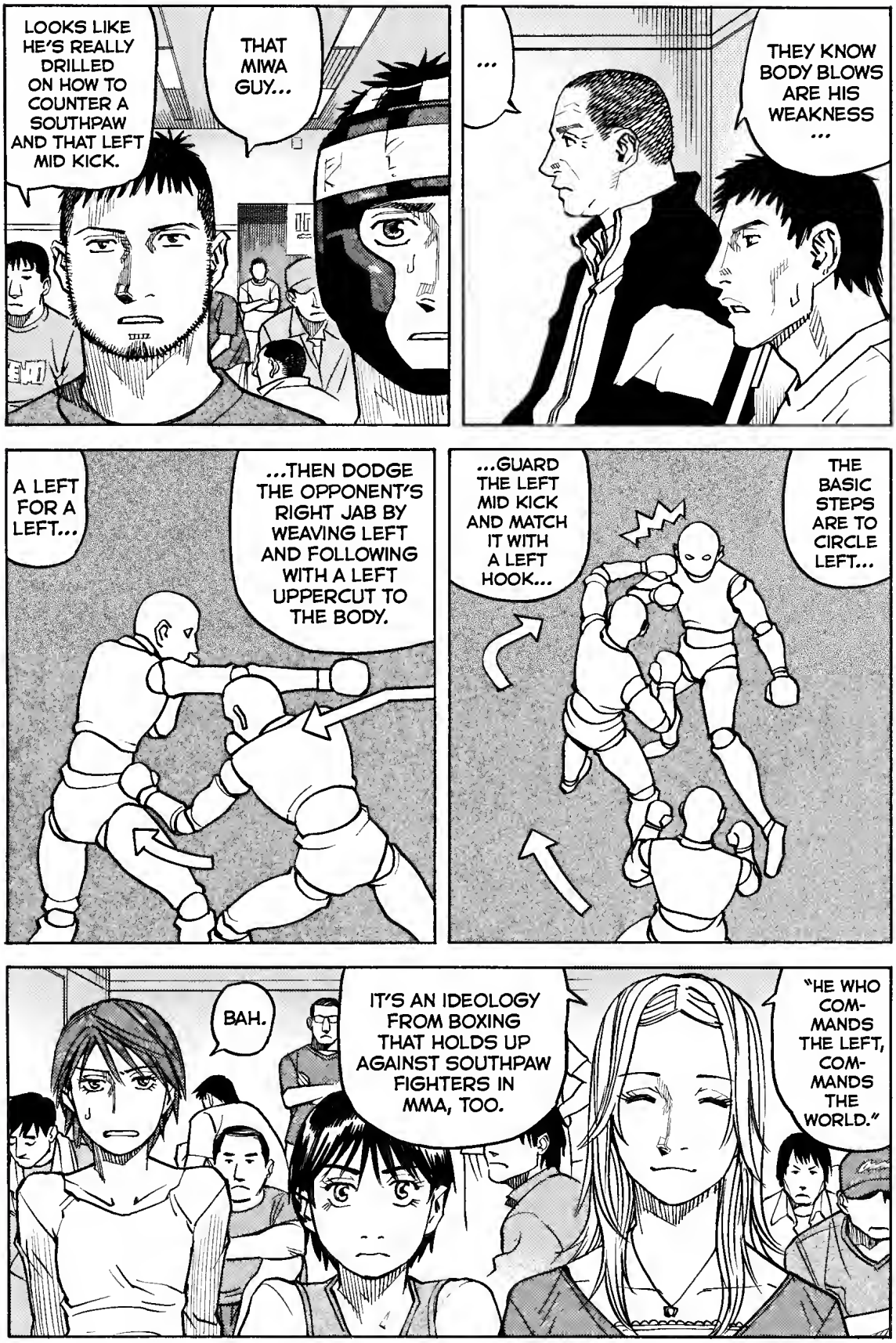
DING
FIGHT!
SET
FWOH

BAM
WHOA...
THE LAST DUDE'S KICKS WERE GREAT,
BUT YAMA-BUKI'S LEFT MID KICK IS REALLY SOME-THIN' ELSE.
STAY CALM, MIWA!
JUST LIKE WE PRAC-TICED!

!
FWOO
SHOOTO
BAP

THAT'S PRETTY TOUGH TO PULL OFF...
OHH!
HE BLOCKED THE LEFT HOOK!
THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SOME ORTHODOX FIGHTERS WHO CAN BLOCK A LEFT HOOK COUNTER TO THEIR LEFT MID KICK.
EVERYONE IN THE KANTO TOURNAMENT IS GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN.
WHIFF
ナル

WHAP
FSH
FSH
SKF
!
SHAKE
SHAKE
HE FELT THAT ONE!


LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY DRILLED ON HOW TO COUNTER A SOUTHPAW AND THAT LEFT MID KICK.
THAT MIWA GUY...
...
THEY KNOW BODY BLOWS ARE HIS WEAKNESS ...
A LEFT FOR A LEFT...
...THEN DODGE THE OPPONENT'S RIGHT JAB BY WEAVING LEFT AND FOLLOWING WITH A LEFT UPPERCUT TO THE BODY.
...GUARD THE LEFT MID KICK AND MATCH IT WITH A LEFT HOOK...
THE BASIC STEPS ARE TO CIRCLE LEFT...
BAH.
IT'S AN IDEOLOGY FROM BOXING THAT HOLDS UP AGAINST SOUTHPAW FIGHTERS IN MMA, TOO.
"HE WHO COM-MANDS THE LEFT, COM-MANDS THE WORLD."

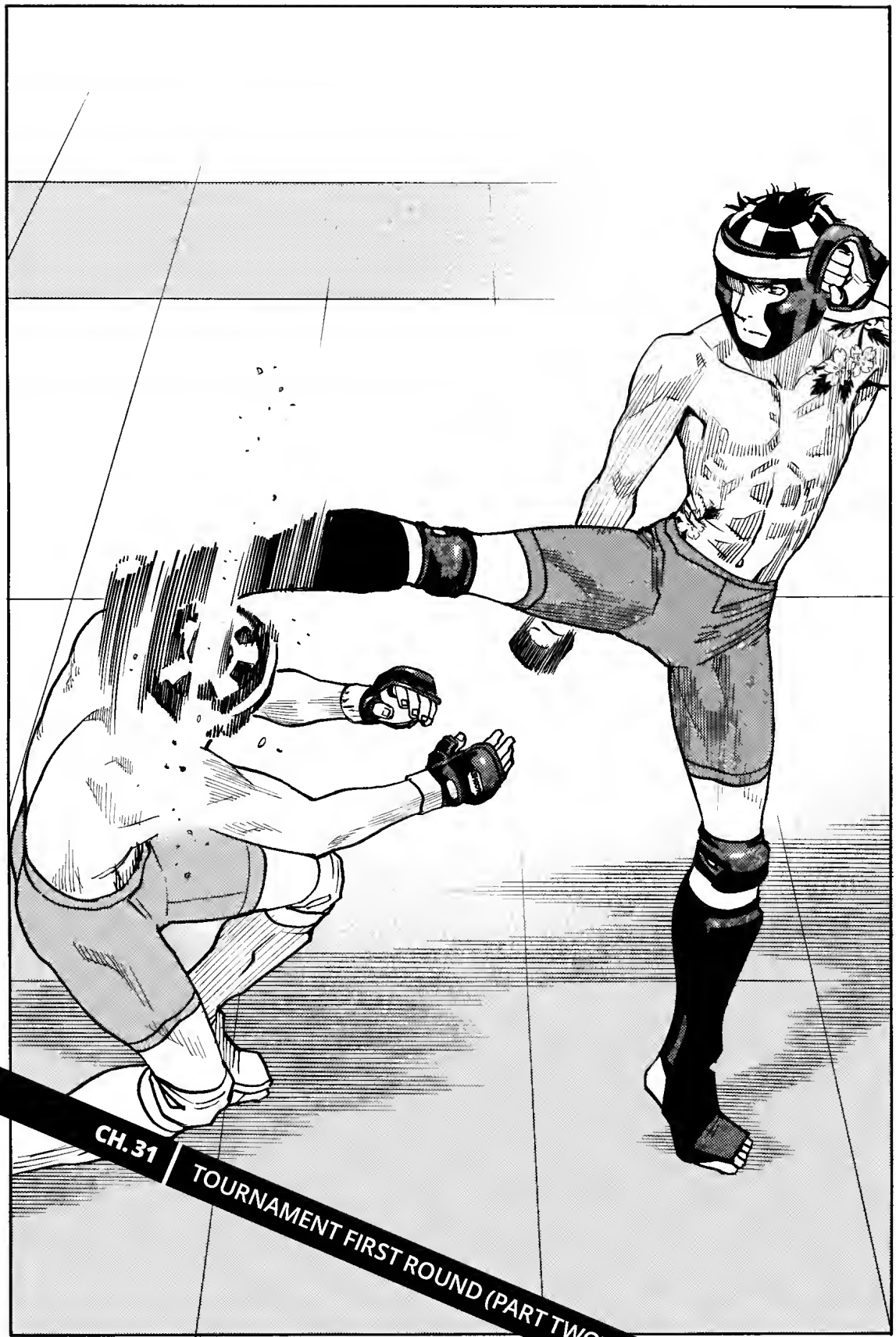
...THERE'LL BE AN OPENING EVEN-TUALLY.
IF I CAN MAKE HIM PANIC WITH THESE LEFT PUNCHES ...
THAT'LL BE MY CHANCE TO TAKE HIM DOWN AND SUBMIT HIM!
...
TWITCH
A LEFT STRAIGHT ?!
NO!
BAP
FSH

FWISH
A RIGHT JAB!
!
NOW!
FWOO

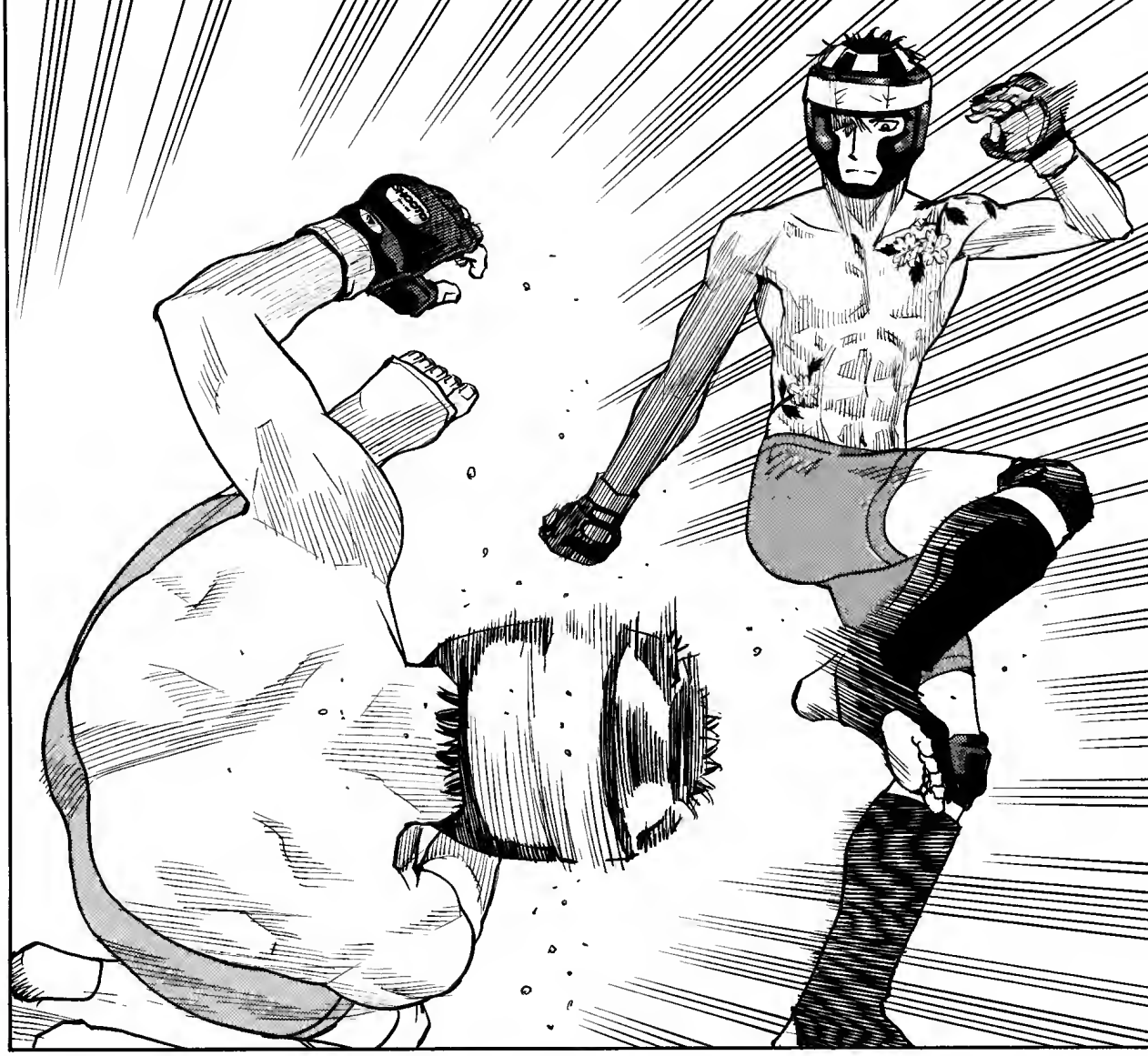
HUH ?!
WHOOSH

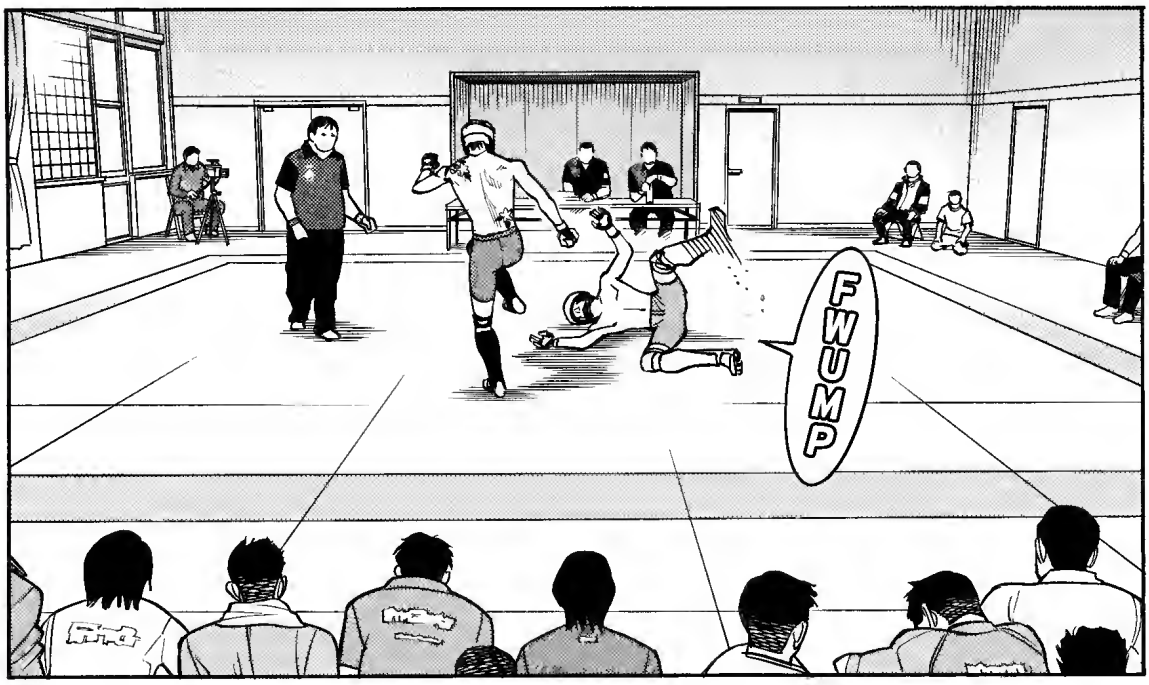
WHEN DID HE SWITCH STANC-ES?!
A RIGHT KICK?

WHACK

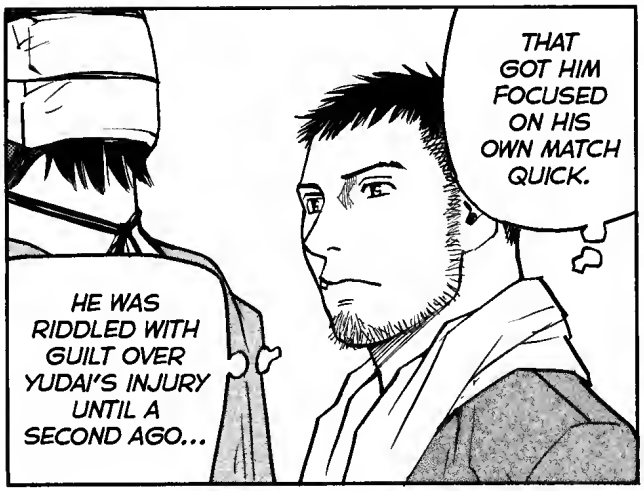


CH. 31 | TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART TWO)

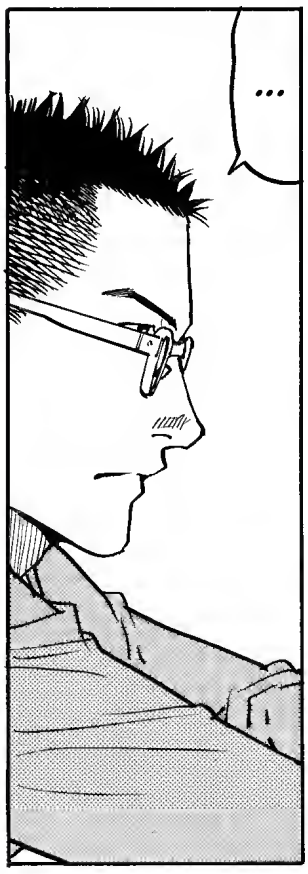


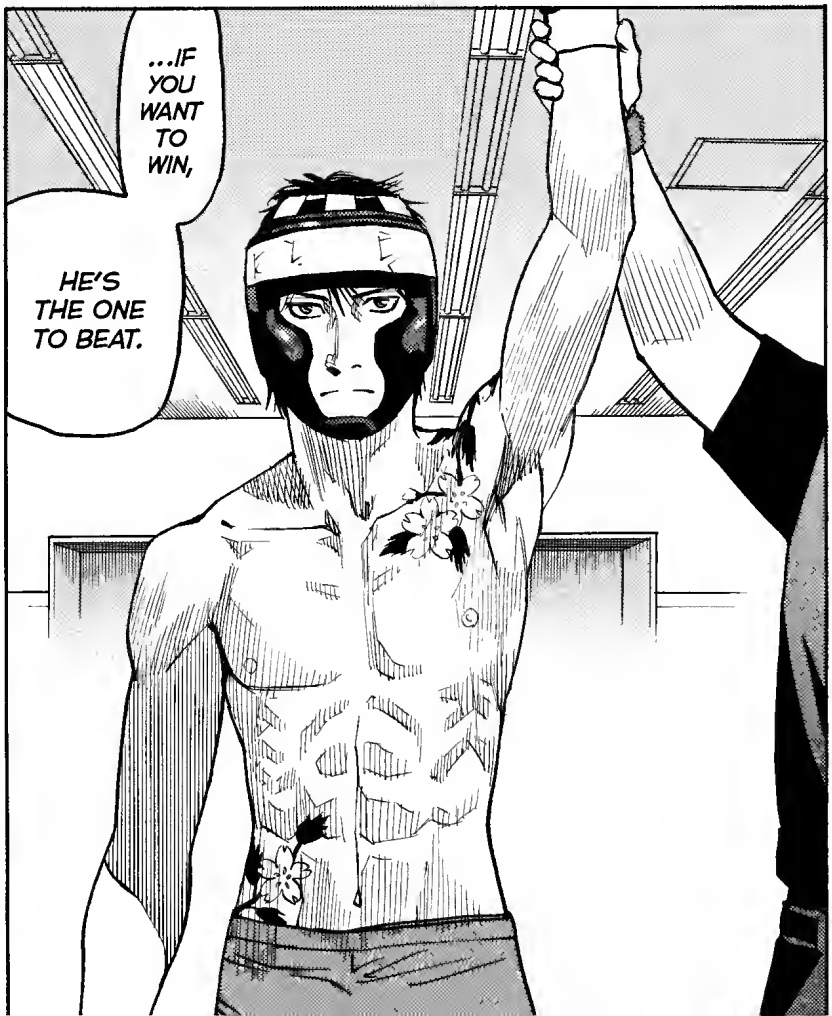

FWUMP

DING
DING
DING
THE MATCH IS OVER!
...BUT HE'S KNOCKED OUT EVERY OPPONENT HE'S GONE UP AGAINST IN HIS AMATEUR CAREER.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE MIGHT'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE ...
!


THAT GOT HIM FOCUSED ON HIS OWN MATCH QUICK.
HE WAS RIDDLED WITH GUILT OVER YUDAI'S INJURY UNTIL A SECOND AGO...

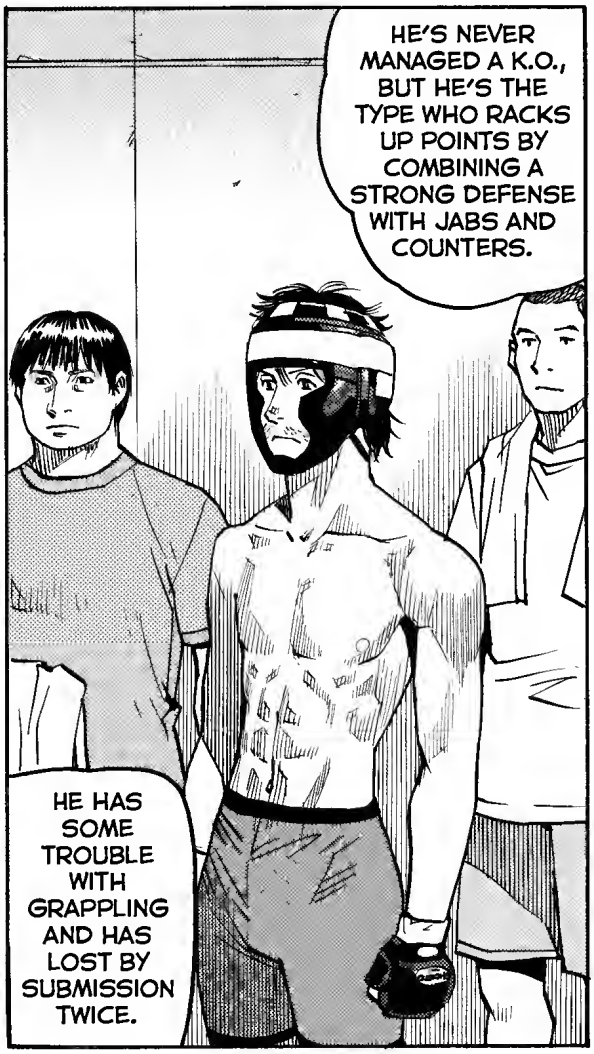
WELL ...
EITHER WAY...

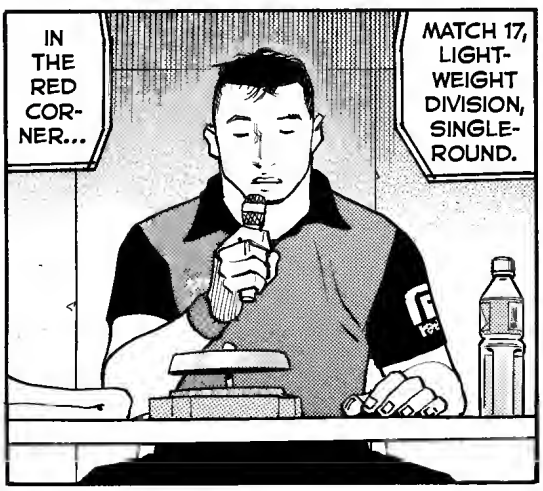

...


...IF YOU WANT TO WIN,
HE'S THE ONE TO BEAT.

MEGURU, THAT'S YOUR OPPONENT.
YEAH.
HE'S A SPEEDY OUT-BOXER WITH A FOCUS ON STRIKING.

WATCH OUT FOR HIS COUNTERS!
ALL RIGHT.
HE'S GONNA KEEP HIS DISTANCE, SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BE AGGRESSIVE AND TAKE HIM TO THE MAT.

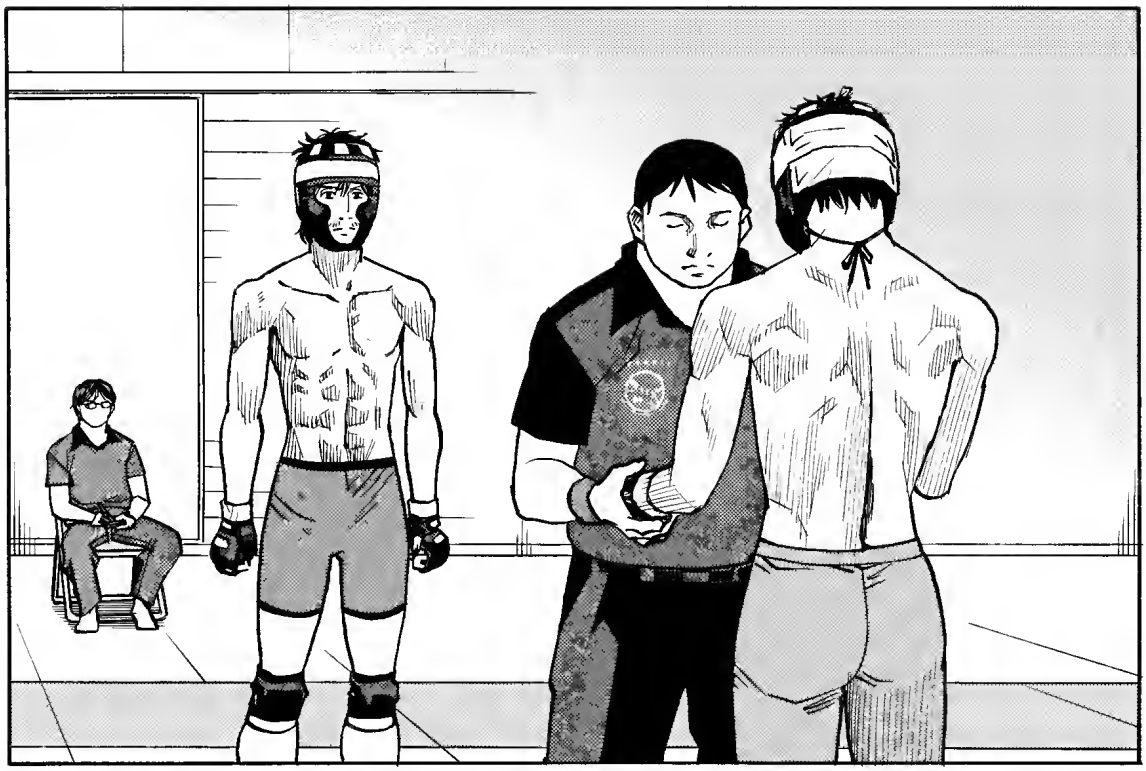

HE'S NEVER MANAGED A K.O., BUT HE'S THE TYPE WHO RACKS UP POINTS BY COMBINING A STRONG DEFENSE WITH JABS AND COUNTERS.
HE HAS SOME TROUBLE WITH GRAPPLING AND HAS LOST BY SUBMISSION TWICE.


IN THE RED CORNER...
MATCH 17, LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SINGLE-ROUND.

SHIGERU OMAEDA.
...FROM WISE FACTORY ...

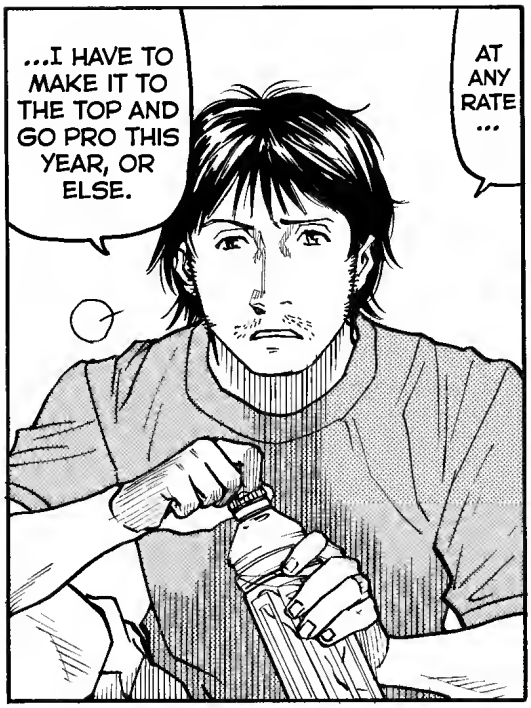
CENTER RING!

MEGURU TAKA-YANAGI.
IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
FIGHTERS BREW

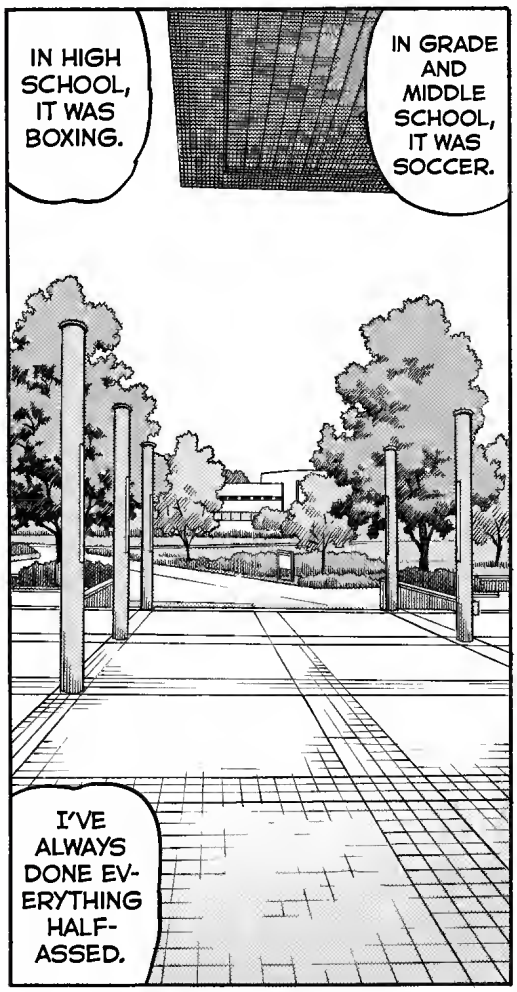


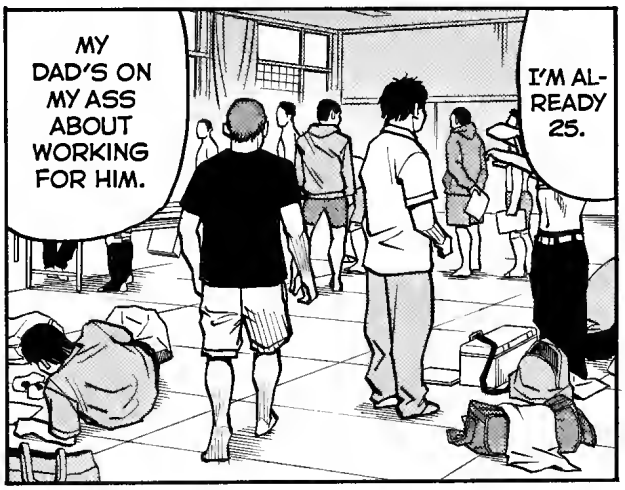
OSAKI FAILED THE WEIGH-IN?
WHAT?

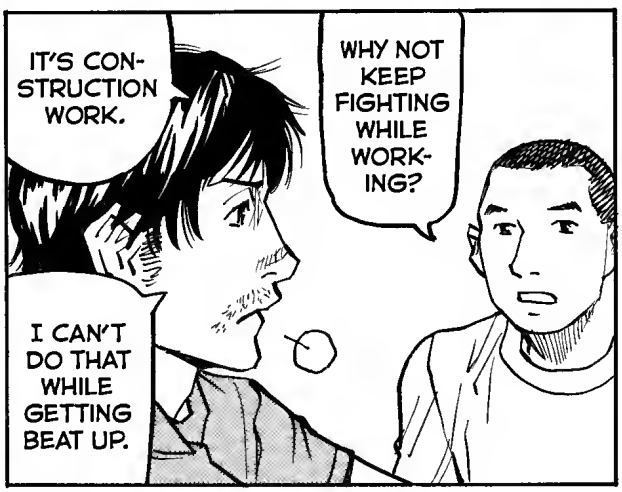
HE AND I ARE 1-1...
PROBABLY WENT TOO HARD ON WEIGHT-TRAINING.
...SO I BEEFED UP MY GRAPPLING FOR THIS FIGHT.


...I HAVE TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP AND GO PRO THIS YEAR, OR ELSE.
AT ANY RATE ...

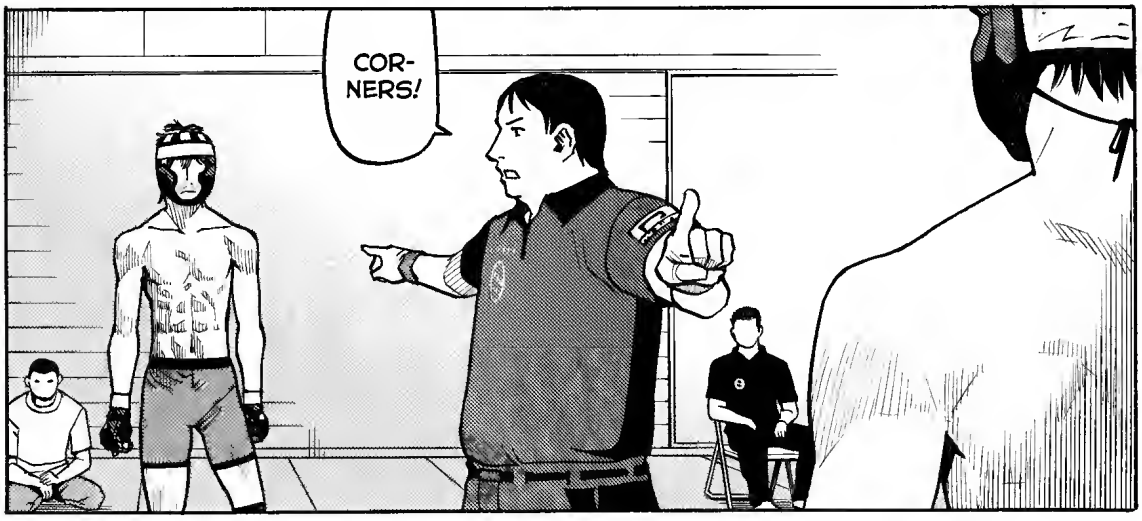
HE'S ONLY HAD FOUR FIGHTS, BUT HE MANAGED TO SUBMIT OGASAWARA IN A GRAPPLING MATCH.
WHAT KINDA FIGHTER IS HIS SUB, MEGURU TAKAYANAGI?
LOOK OUT FOR HIS GROUND GAME.

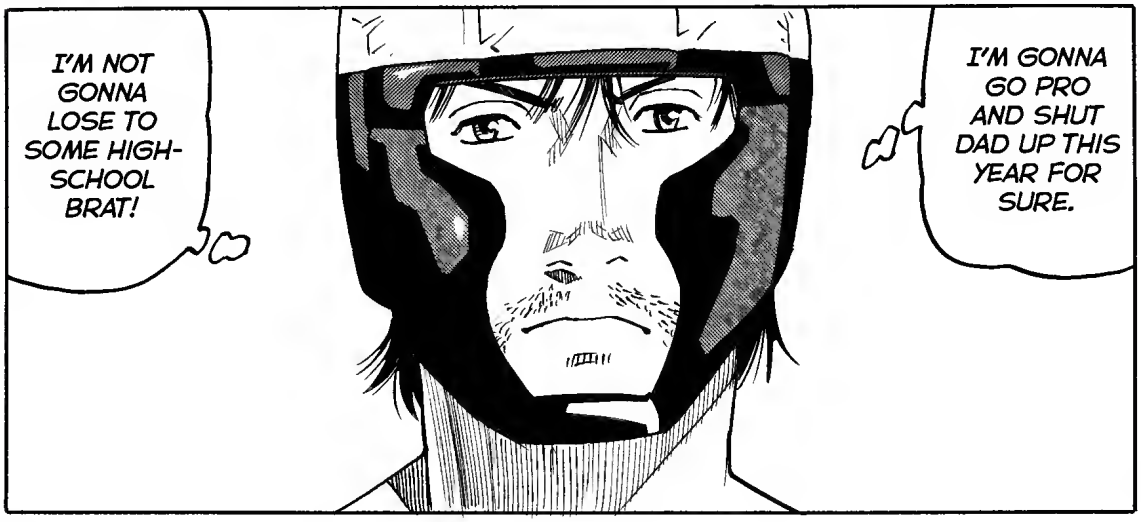

IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT WAS BOXING.
IN GRADE AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, IT WAS SOCCER.
I'VE ALWAYS DONE EVERYTHING HALF-ASSED.


MY DAD'S ON MY ASS ABOUT WORKING FOR HIM.
I'M ALREADY 25.


IT'S CONSTRUCTION WORK.
WHY NOT KEEP FIGHTING WHILE WORKING?
I CAN'T DO THAT WHILE GETTING BEAT UP.

AT LEAST WITH SHOOTO ...
...I WANT TO LEAVE SOME KINDA MARK.

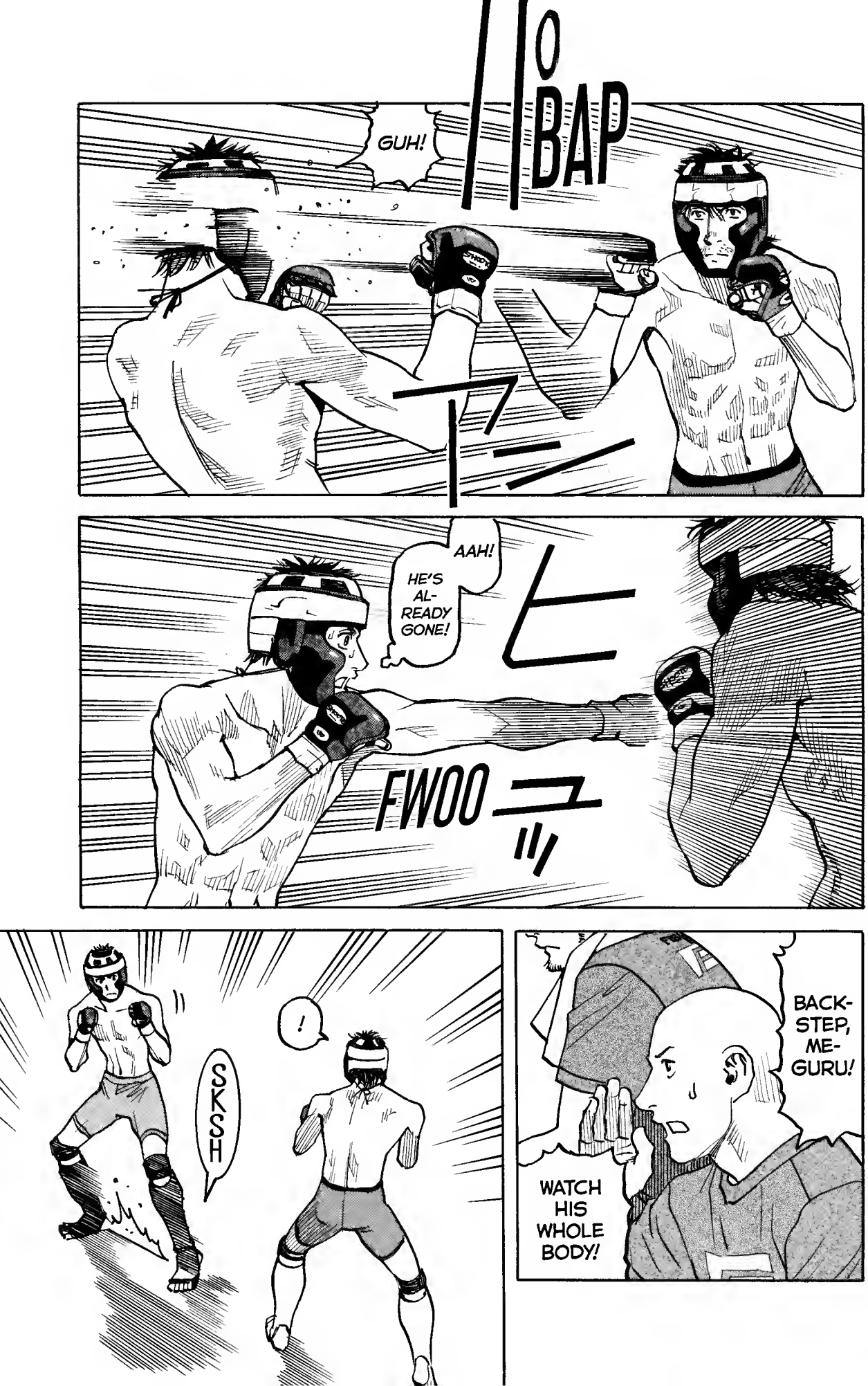

COR-NERS!


I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO SOME HIGH-SCHOOL BRAT!
I'M GONNA GO PRO AND SHUT DAD UP THIS YEAR FOR SURE.

スゥ〜
SFFFF〜
!
MEGU-
RU!
TAKE A
DEEP
BREATH!
HAAAH
FIGHT!
DING
ナ

...BUT I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
FURUYA-SAN SAID HE'S AN OUT-BOXER ...
SHOOTO
HM?
FWOO
HUH?

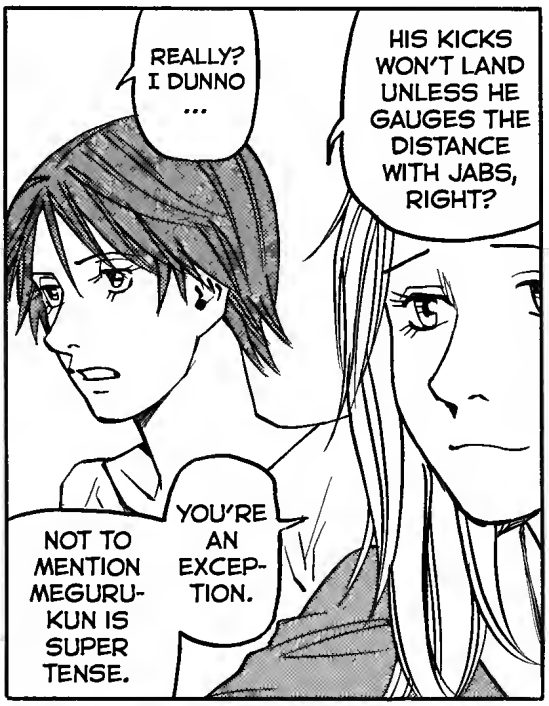
BAM
あんっ
BGH!
SHUCK
BA-
BAP
HEY!
HUH?
FSH
FSH
WHA?!
SWIF


BAP
GUH!
AAH!
HE'S AL-READY GONE!
FWOO
BACK-STEP, ME-GURU!
WATCH HIS WHOLE BODY!
SKSH
!

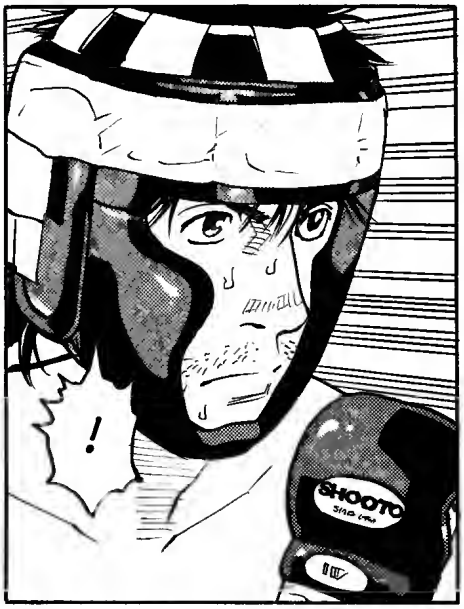
I HAVE TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE...
IF I RETREAT EVEN A LITTLE BIT, HE COMES AFTER ME.
WAH!
WAH!
WAH!
WHIF ビュッ!!
ビュッ!!
WHIP
HE WENT AROUND MY LEFT THIS TIME!
AAH!
HIS STYLE IS SUPPOSEDLY PUNCH-FOCUSED, THOUGH...
HE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIS OPPONENT'S SPEED AND FOOTWORK AT ALL.

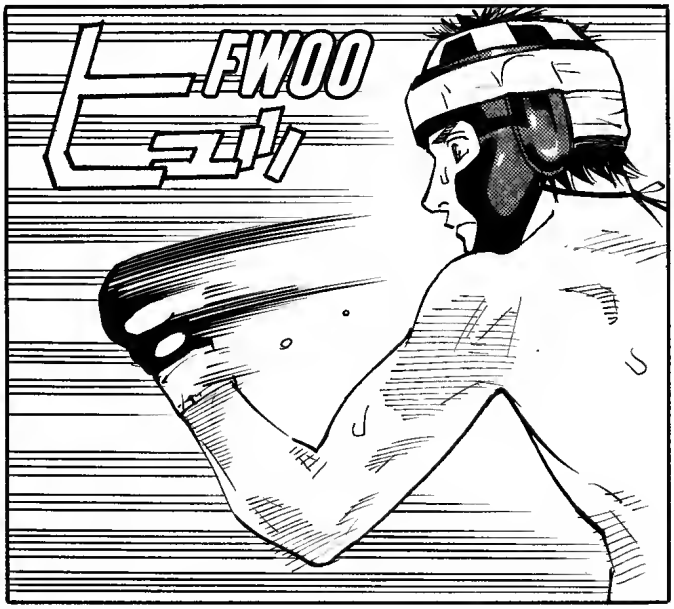
IT'S HARD TO CHECK KICKS WHEN YOU'RE TILTED FORWARD THAT MUCH.
HE'S DODGING ALL OF MEGURU'S LOW KICKS WITH BACKSTEPPING.
LL FWOO
BUT STILL ...
I COULD REACH HIM WITH MY LEFT MID.
YOU'RE A SOUTHPAW, MAKI!
...AND YET HE'S NOT KICKING AT ALL.
HE PRACTICED SO MUCH...
SHOOTO
EVEN A RIGHT MID KICK HAS MORE RANGE THAN HIS OPPONENT'S JAB.
...ISN'T THE LONGEST REACHING MID KICK PERFECT FOR THIS SITUATION?

IF HE DOESN'T RELAX...
THEN HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BRING HIS LEG ABOVE HIS WAIST.


HIS KICKS WON'T LAND UNLESS HE GAUGES THE DISTANCE WITH JABS, RIGHT?
REALLY? I DUNNO ...
YOU'RE AN EXCEP-TION.
NOT TO MENTION MEGURU-KUN IS SUPER TENSE.

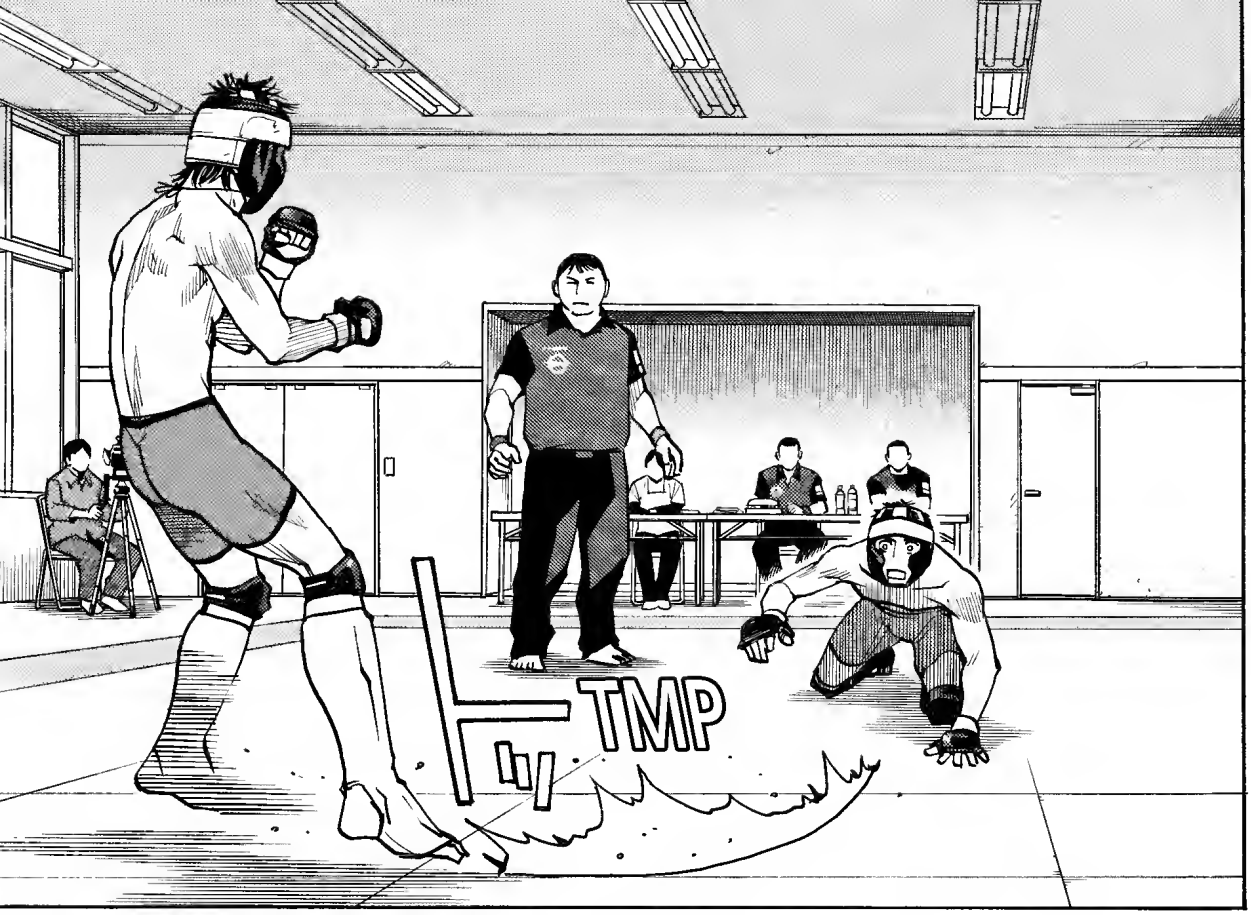
HUFF
HUFF
I HAVE TO CLOSE THE DISTANCE AND TACKLE HIM!
WHAT ELSE WAS ALL THAT PRACTICE FOR?!


!
SHOOTO


FWOO

WHISH
I'M NOT DONE YET!
HE DODGED!
DASH

SKFF
BREAK AND GET AWAY!
GOOD, SHI-GERU!
PUSH
FWIP


TMP

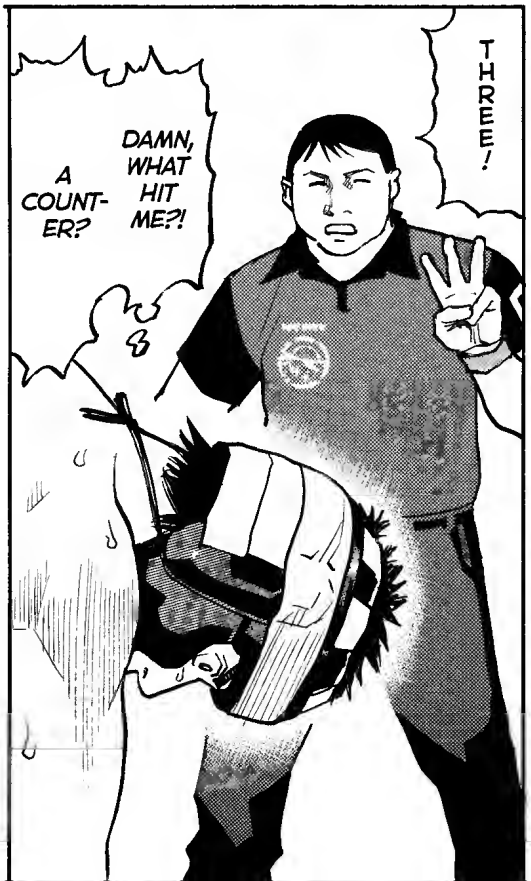
HE'S TOTALLY KEEP-ING HIM OUT OF RANGE...
TWO MINUTES, MEGURU!

BLUE, ON YOUR FEET!
AND AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE ...
HUFF
HUFF

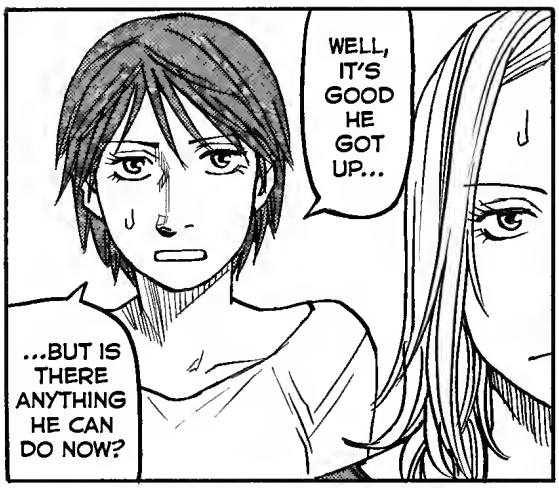
HUFF
HUFF
DON'T GIVE UP!
WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH!
HUFF

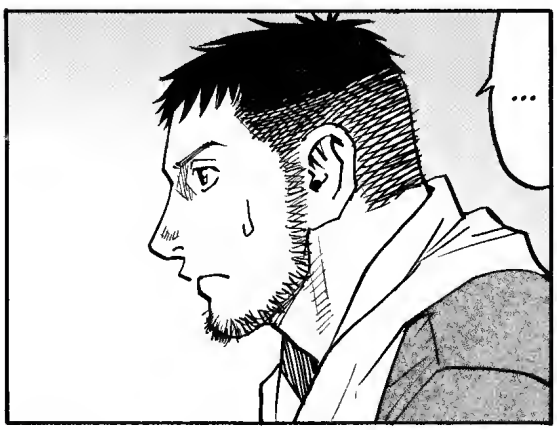
WHIFF
FWOO
...INTO A RIGHT STRAIGHT TO THE BODY AND–
NEXT, I'LL JAB...
A COUNTER'S COMING.
HE'S STARTED TO BOB!

BOOF

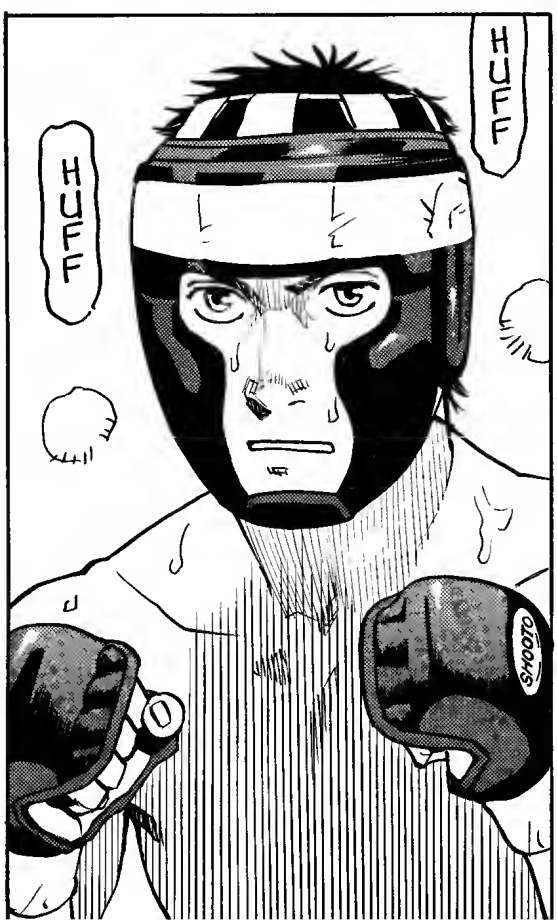

THREE!
DAMN, WHAT HIT ME?!
A COUNTER?

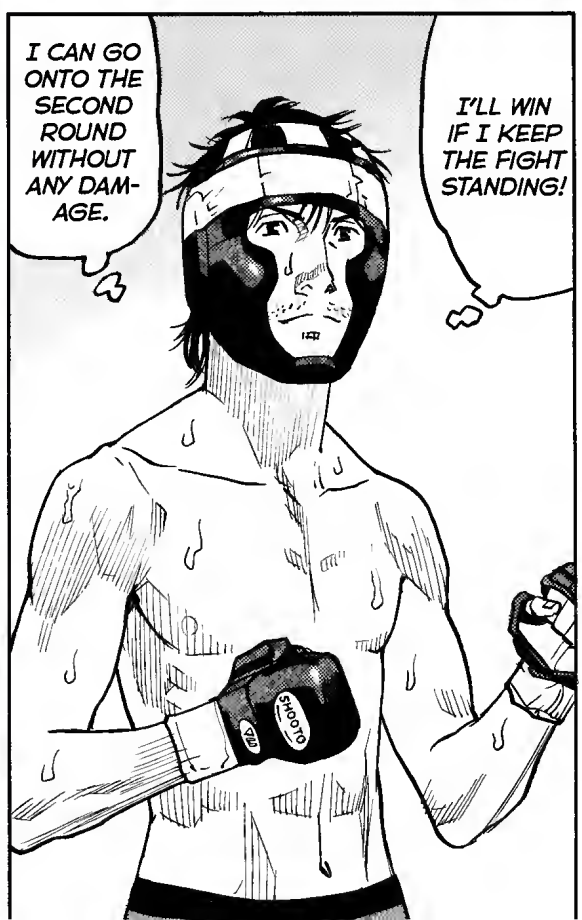
DOWN!
ONE!
TWO!


WELL, IT'S GOOD HE GOT UP...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO NOW?

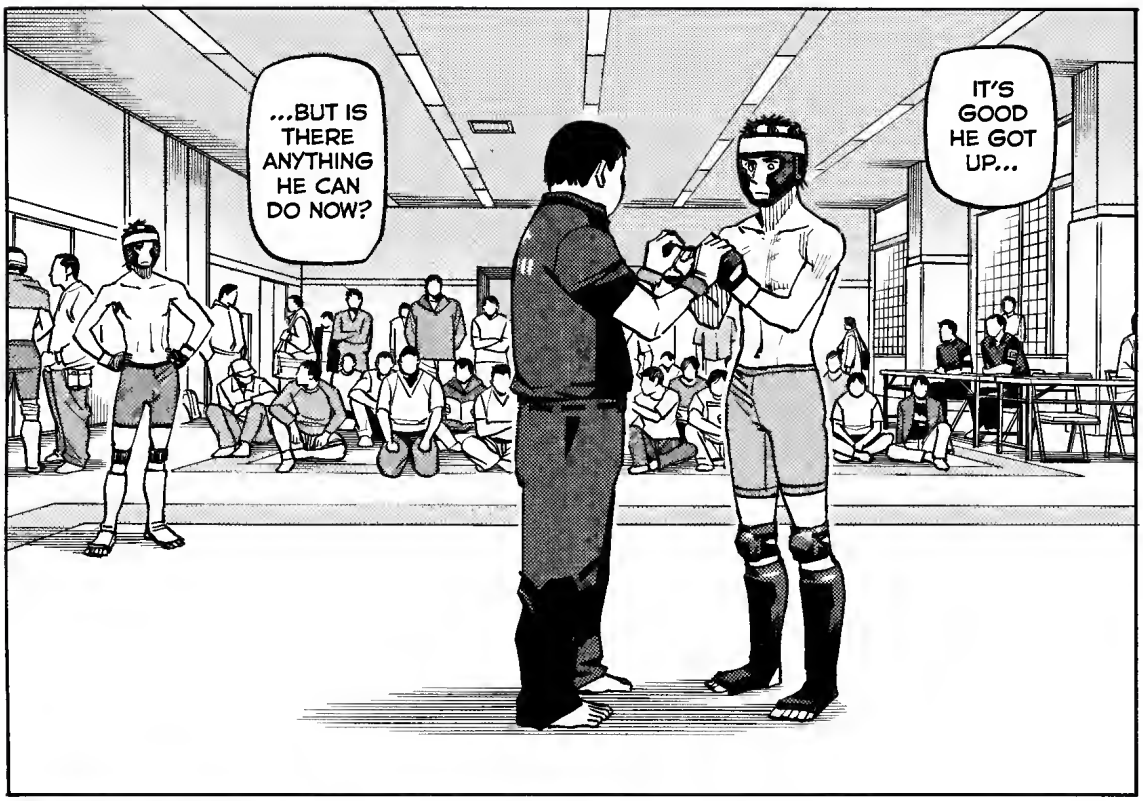

...

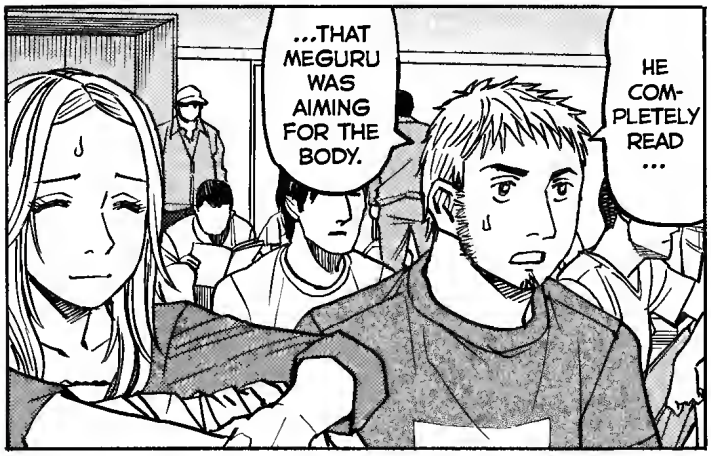
FWIP
FOUR!


HUFF
HUFF
SHOOTO

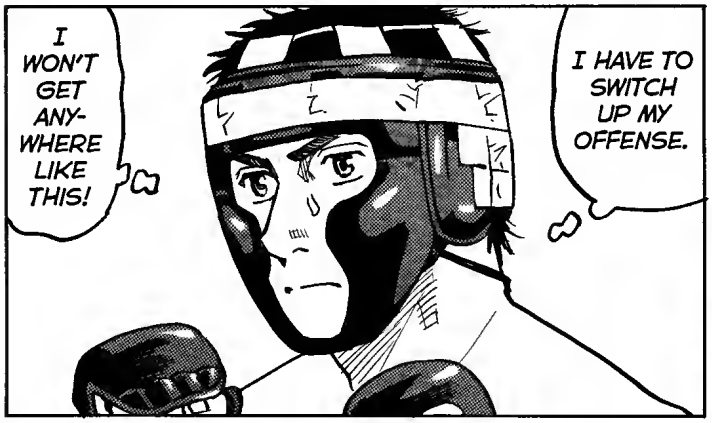

I CAN GO ONTO THE SECOND ROUND WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE.
I'LL WIN IF I KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING!
SHOOTO

CH. 32 | TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART THREE)


IT'S GOOD HE GOT UP...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING HE CAN DO NOW?


HE COMPLETELY READ ...
...THAT MEGURU WAS AIMING FOR THE BODY.

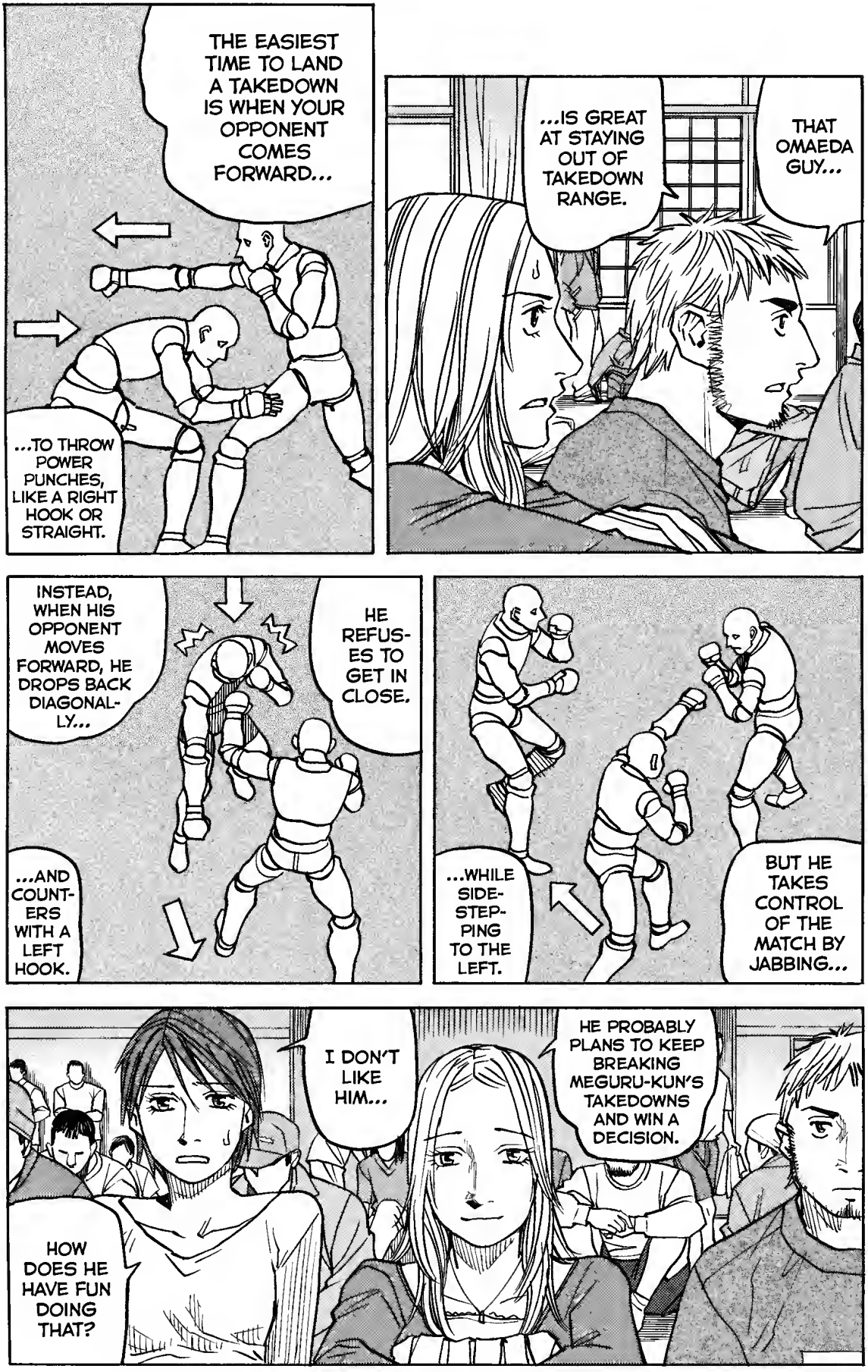
A LEFT-HOOK COUNTER, HUH?


I HAVE TO SWITCH UP MY OFFENSE.
I WON'T GET ANY-WHERE LIKE THIS!

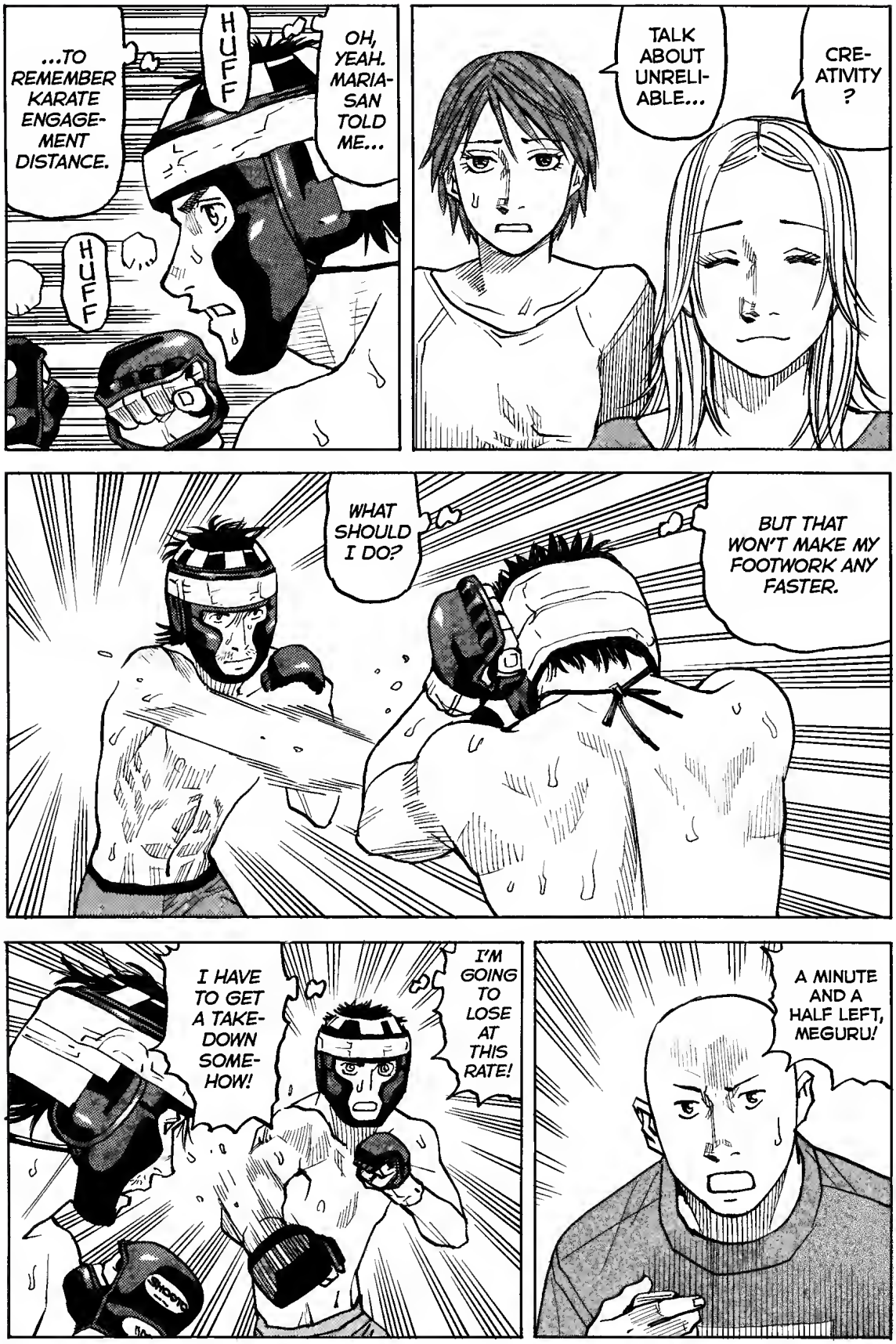
FIGHT!
AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T TAKE ME TO THE MAT, I'LL WIN!
I EARNED A CLEAR LEAD WITH THAT KNOCK DOWN!
WHIF

HE'S GONNA RUN OUT THE CLOCK...
MEGURU! YOU'VE GOTTA GO ON THE OFFENSE!
WHIFF
ヒル
ュル
...BUT HOW, EX-ACTLY?
GOTTA SWITCH THINGS UP...
FWOO
ュル
BAP

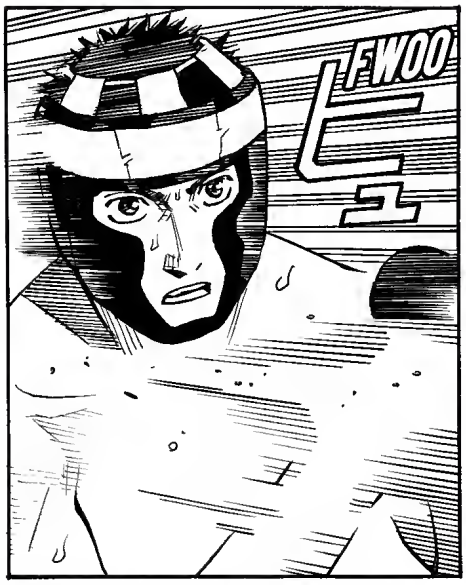
DASH
ダッ
FWIP
はっ
AH!
SKF
SKF!!
GRAB
HUFF
I GUESS THE JAB-TAKE-DOWN COMBINA-TION...
HUFF
...WON'T WORK ON OPPONENTS WITH A FAST DIAGONAL BACKSTEP.


THE EASIEST TIME TO LAND A TAKEDOWN IS WHEN YOUR OPPONENT COMES FORWARD...
...TO THROW POWER PUNCHES, LIKE A RIGHT HOOK OR STRAIGHT.
THAT OMAEDA GUY...
...IS GREAT AT STAYING OUT OF TAKEDOWN RANGE.
INSTEAD, WHEN HIS OPPONENT MOVES FORWARD, HE DROPS BACK DIAGONAL-LY...
HE REFUS-ES TO GET IN CLOSE.
...AND COUNT-ERS WITH A LEFT HOOK.
...WHILE SIDE-STEP-PING TO THE LEFT.
BUT HE TAKES CONTROL OF THE MATCH BY JABBING...
HOW DOES HE HAVE FUN DOING THAT?
I DON'T LIKE HIM...
HE PROBABLY PLANS TO KEEP BREAKING MEGURU-KUN'S TAKEDOWNS AND WIN A DECISION.

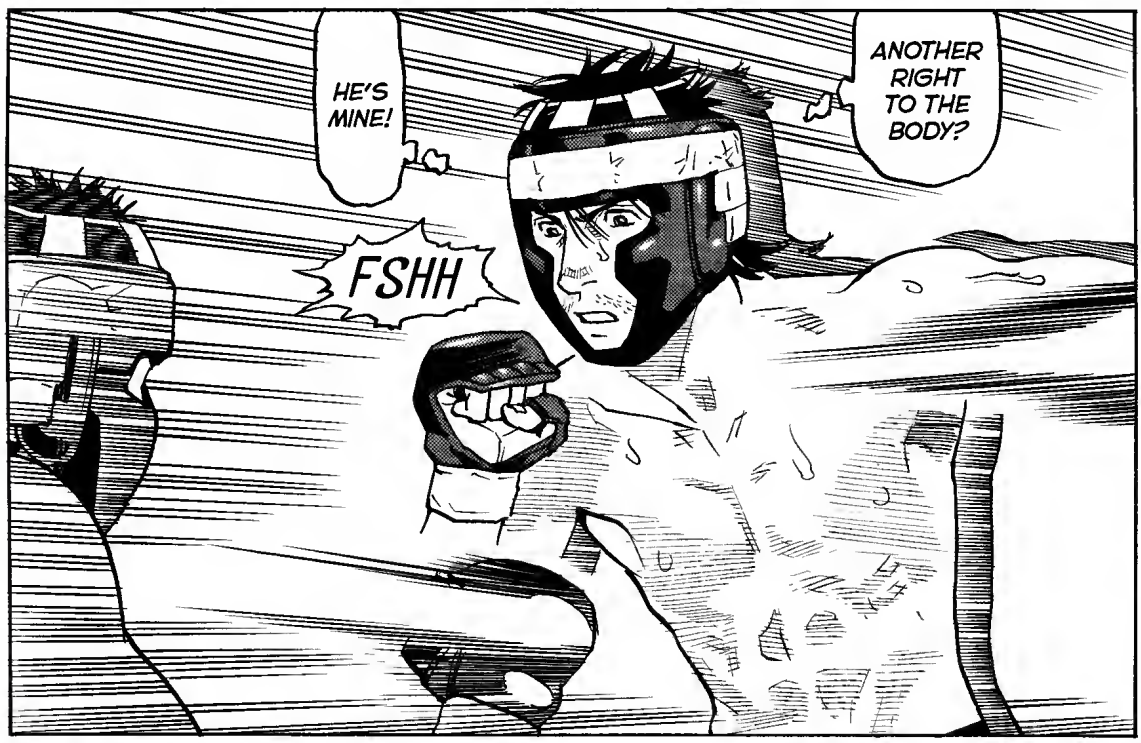
IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE.
FOR PEOPLE WHO AREN'T TOUGH AND ARE WEAKER PHYSICALLY...
!
...THEN THIS KIND OF STRATEGY MAKES SENSE.
THAT'S HOW IT USED TO BE FOR ME.
...
WELL, IF HE HAD QUICKER FOOTWORK AND ENOUGH POWER FOR A ONE-HIT K.O.
HOW CAN MEGURU BEAT HIM, THEN?
BUT HE DOESN'T, SOOO...
WHAT, THEN?
MMM...

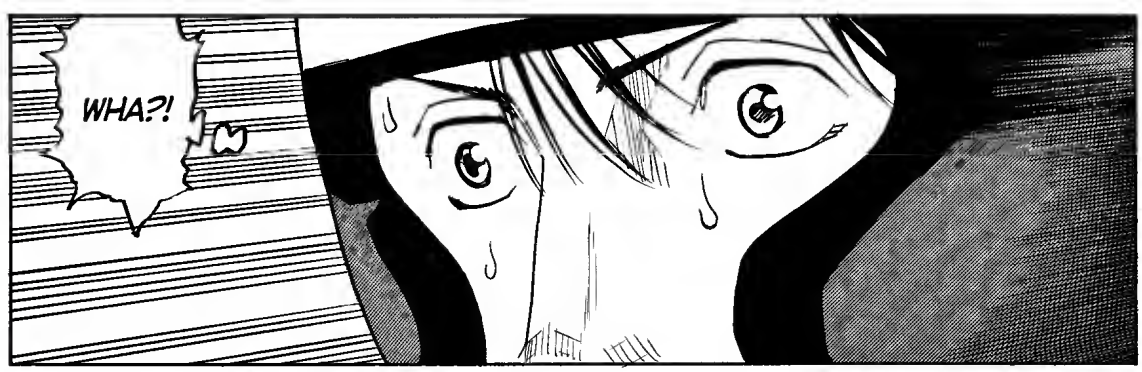

...TO REMEMBER KARATE ENGAGE-MENT DISTANCE.
HUFF
HUFF
OH, YEAH. MARIA-SAN TOLD ME...
TALK ABOUT UNRELI-ABLE...
CRE-ATIVITY ?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT THAT WON'T MAKE MY FOOTWORK ANY FASTER.
I HAVE TO GET A TAKE-DOWN SOME-HOW!
I'M GOING TO LOSE AT THIS RATE!
A MINUTE AND A HALF LEFT, MEGURU!

WHIF
BAP
I'LL COUNTER WITH ANOTHER LEFT HOOK!
NOW THAT WE'RE IN A STALE-MATE, HE'S FALLEN INTO THE SAME PATTERN.
I HAVE TO AIM FOR WHEN HE CLOSES IN!
HE SHOULD TRY TO COUNTER ME!


FWOO
ヒュ

WHIF
ヒュ
ュッ


HE'S MINE!
ANOTHER RIGHT TO THE BODY?
FSHH

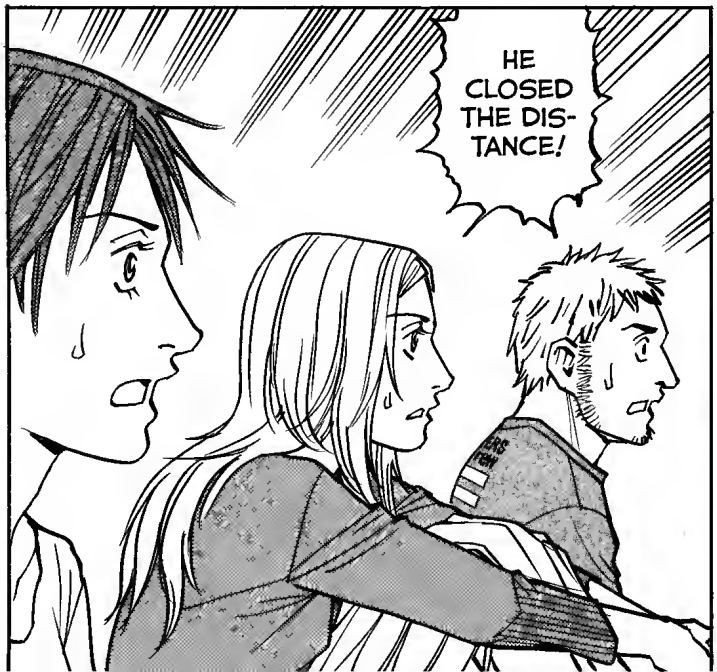

WHA?!

HE'S CLOSE!
WHY?!

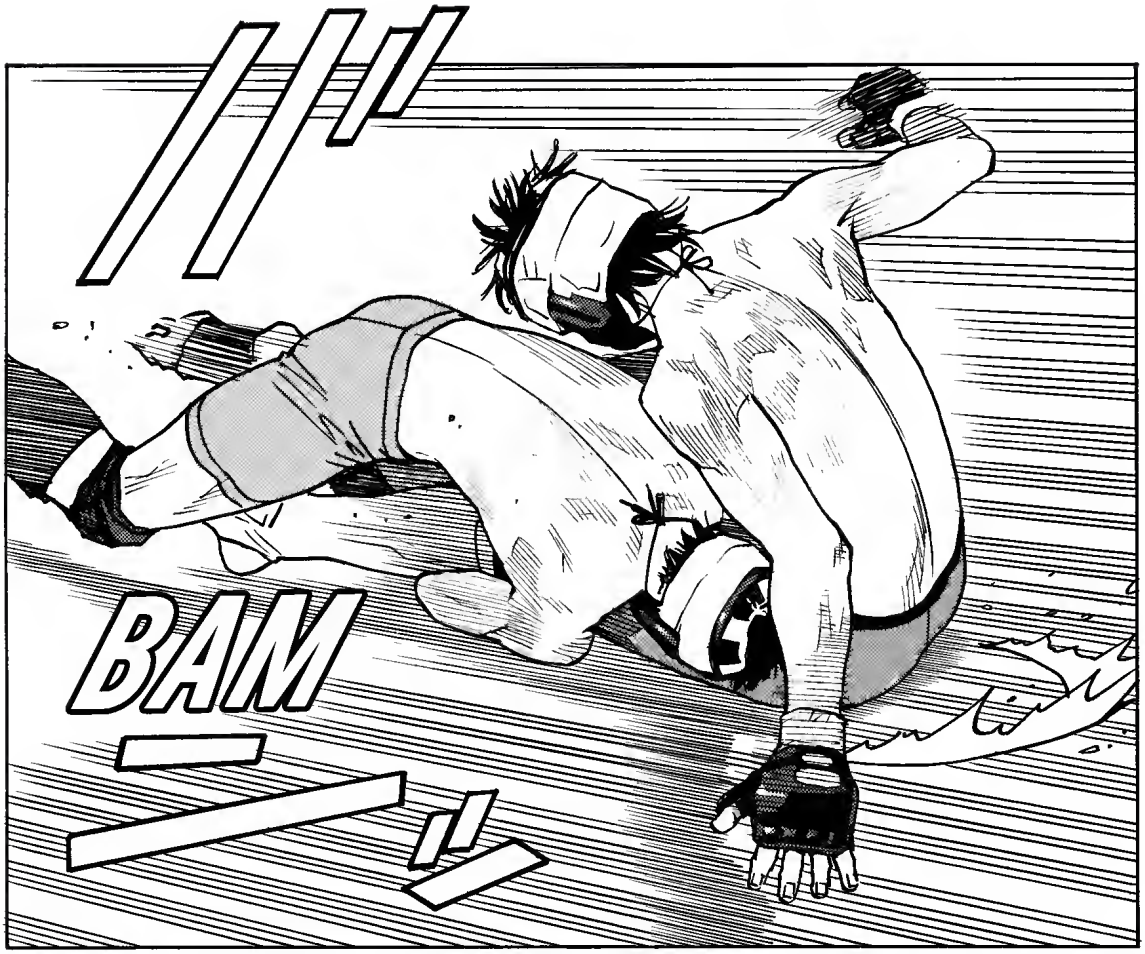
ヒィFWOO
ユ

!

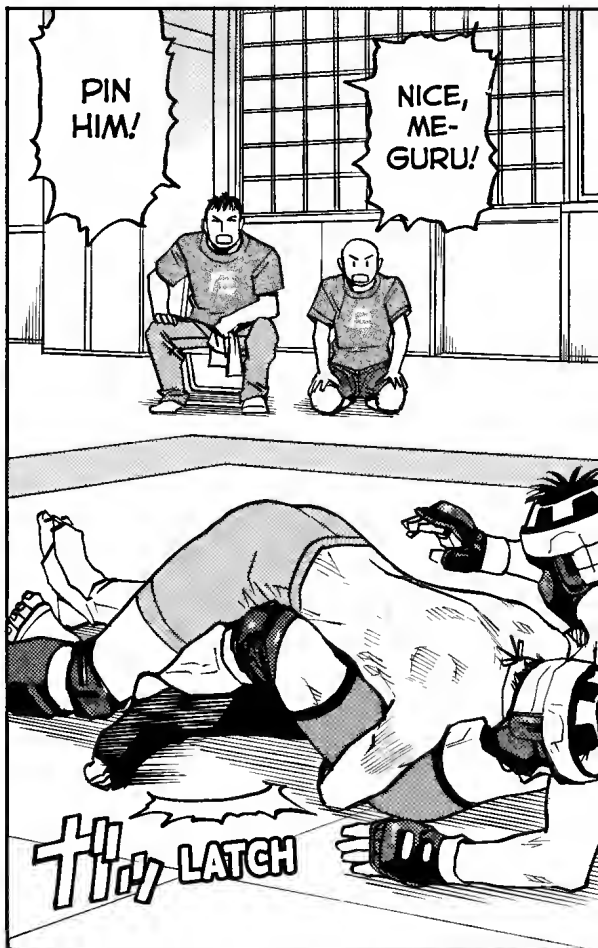
*LEADING-ARM KARATE PUNCH.

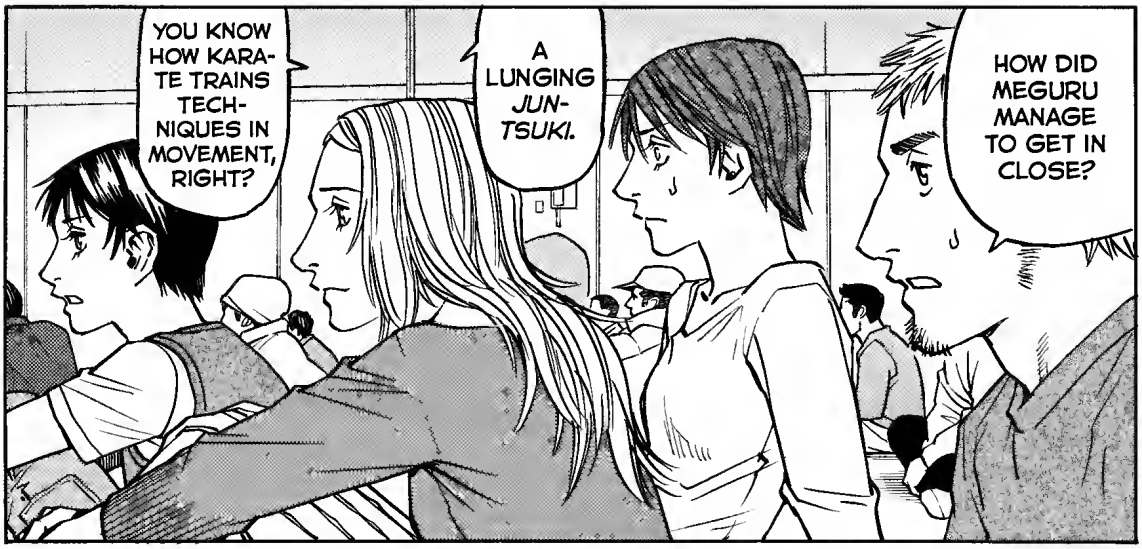


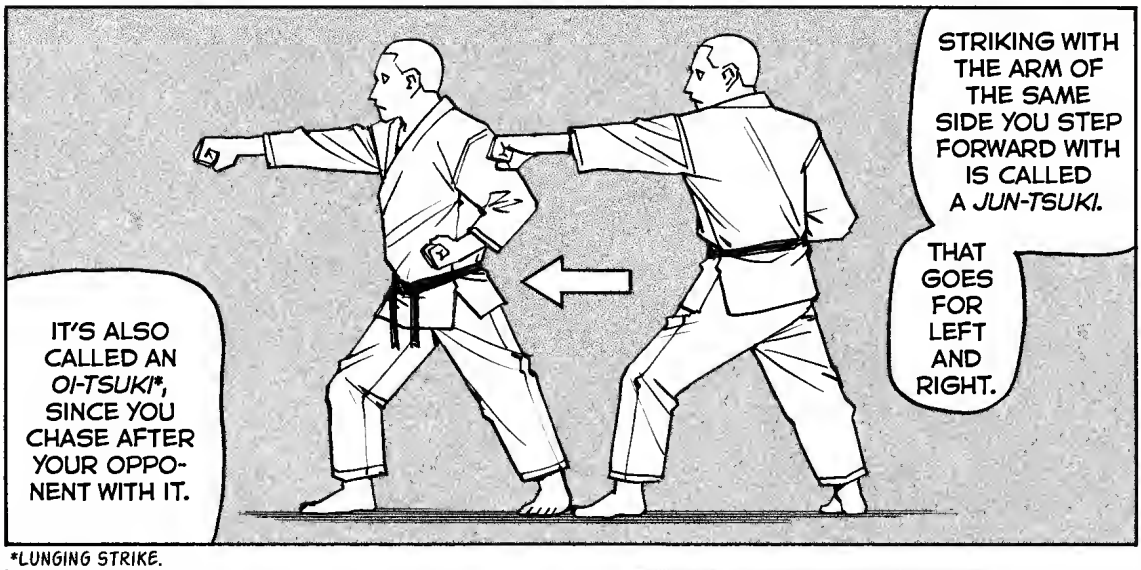
DASH
WHIP
WHIP


BAM

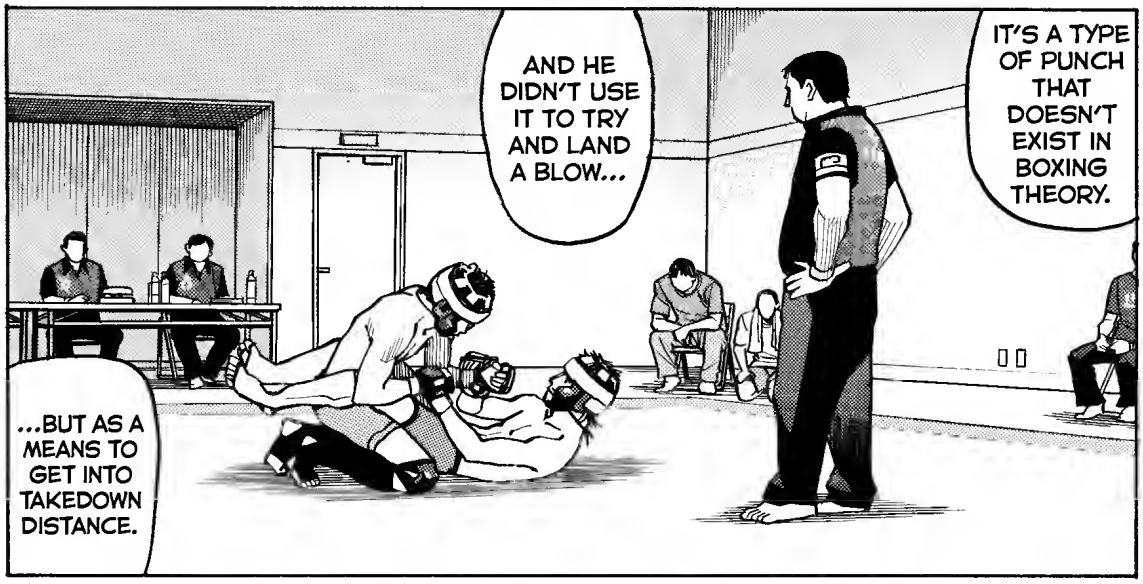
YOU SCORED POINTS, MEGURU!
TAKE-DOWN!
TOP! BLUE!


PIN HIM!
NICE, ME-GURU!
LATCH

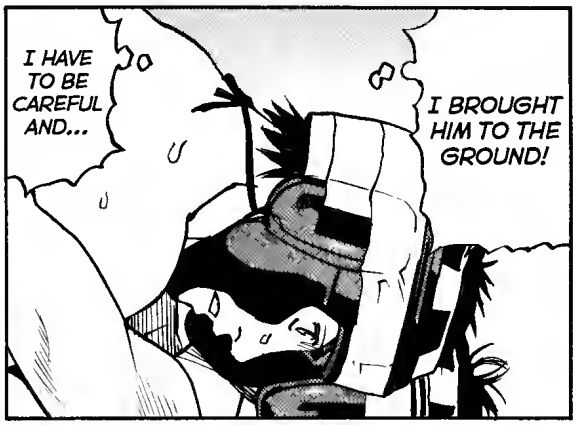


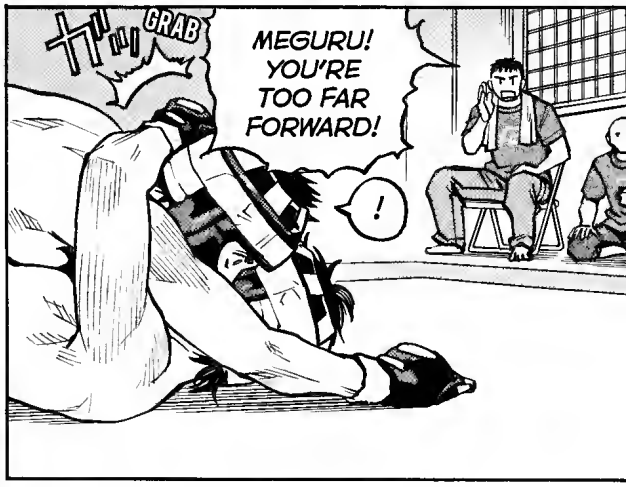


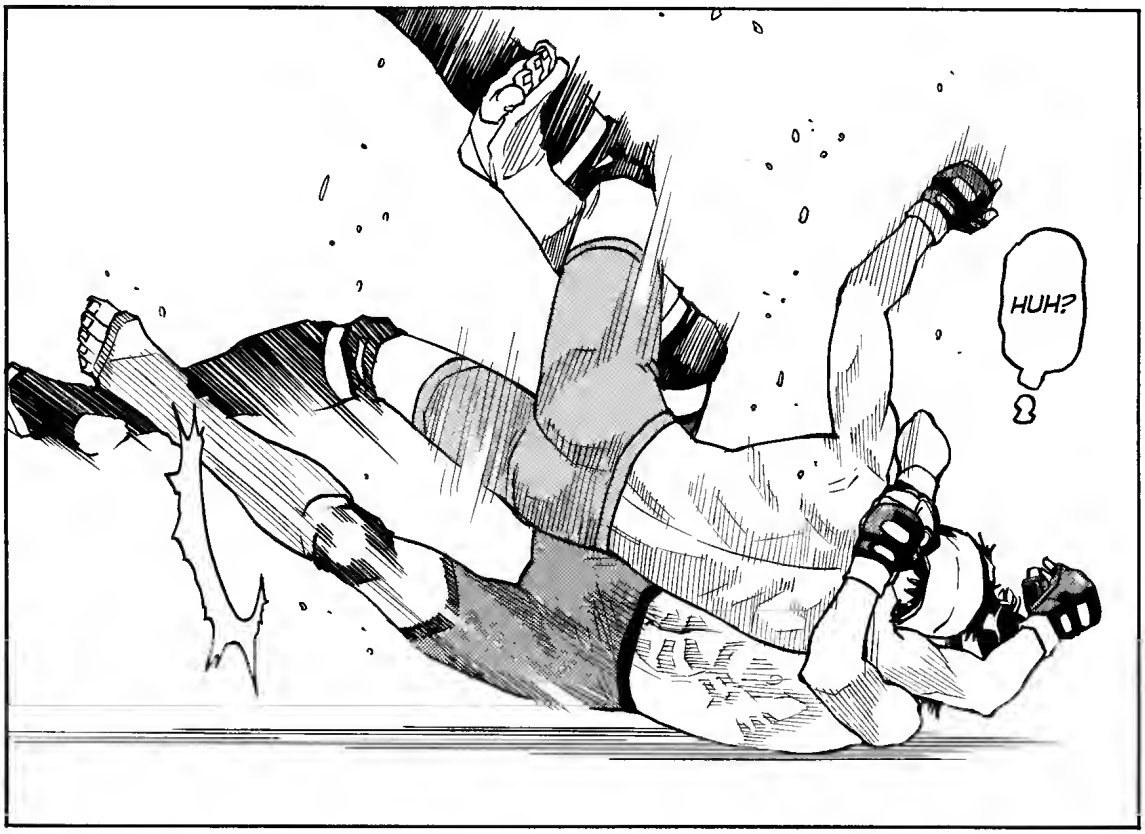
*LUNGING STRIKE.

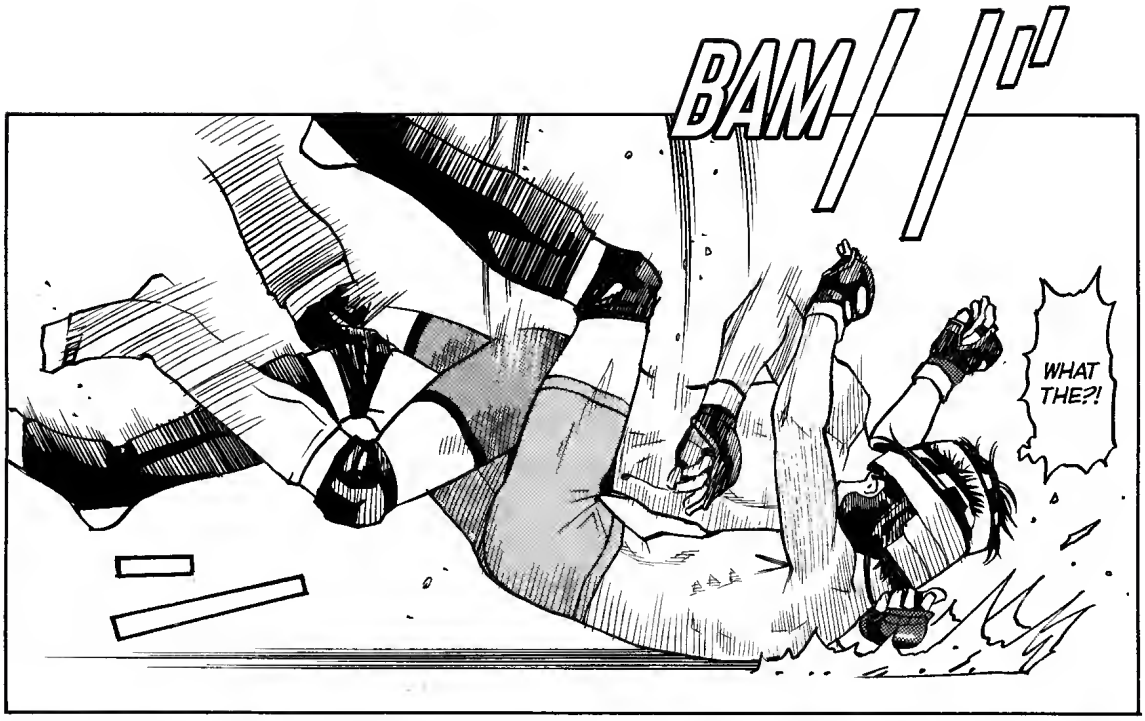


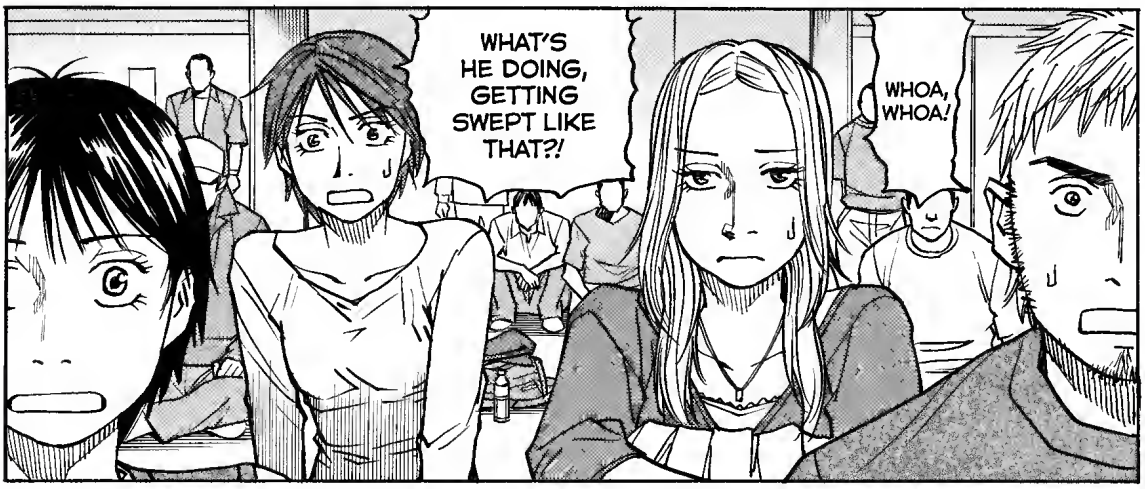
TOSS

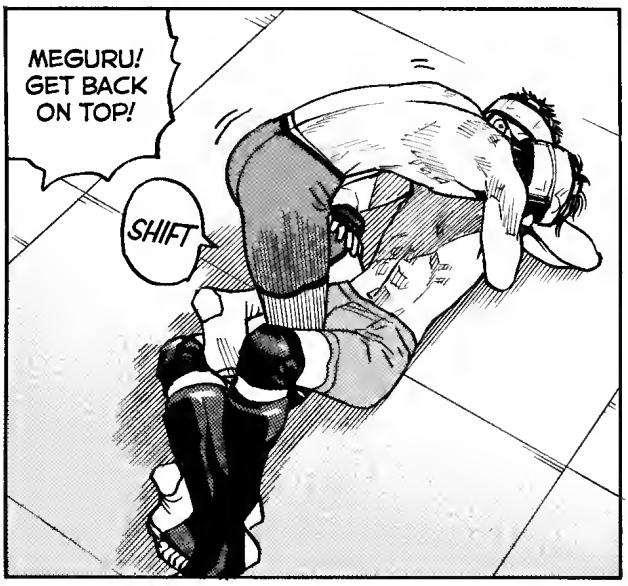

I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND...
I BROUGHT HIM TO THE GROUND!

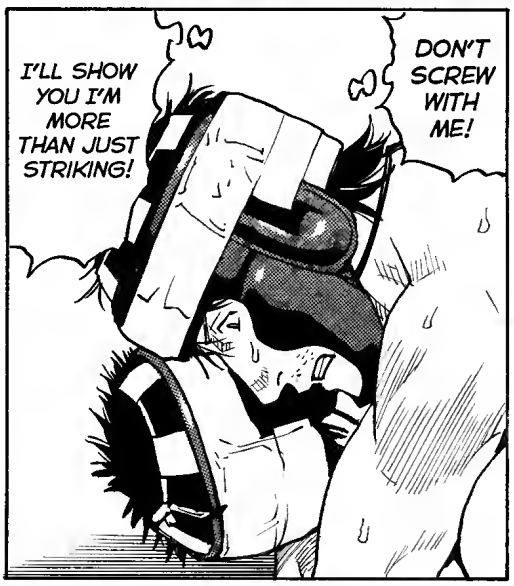

GRAB
MEGURU! YOU'RE TOO FAR FORWARD!
!


HUH?

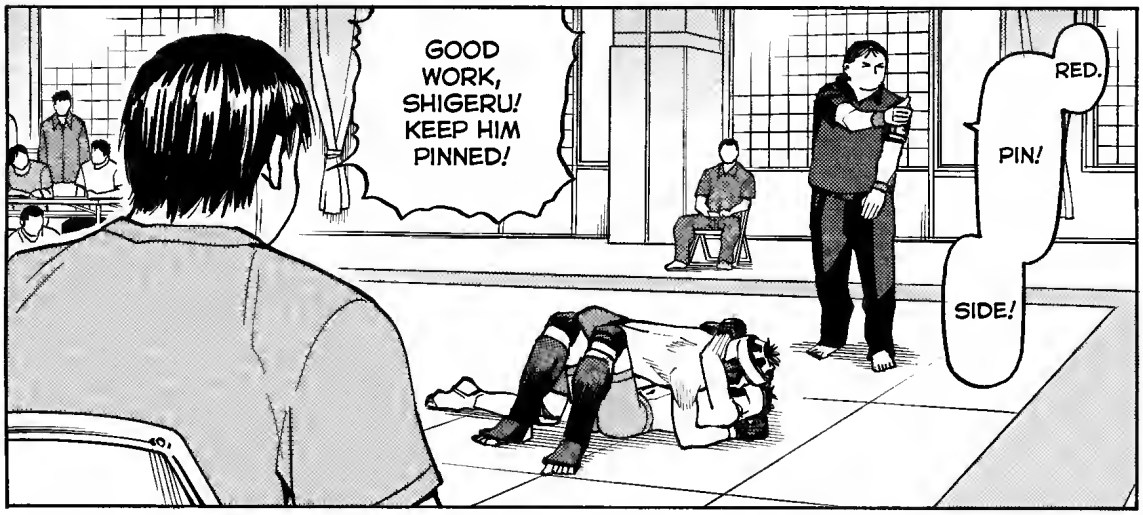

BAM
WHAT THE?!


WHAT'S HE DOING, GETTING SWEPT LIKE THAT?!
WHOA, WHOA!

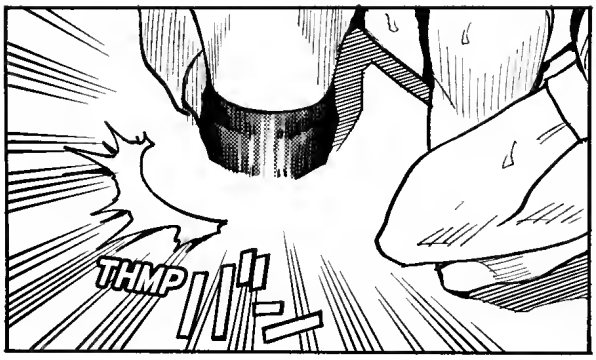

MEGURU! GET BACK ON TOP!
SHIFT


I'LL SHOW YOU I'M MORE THAN JUST STRIKING!
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

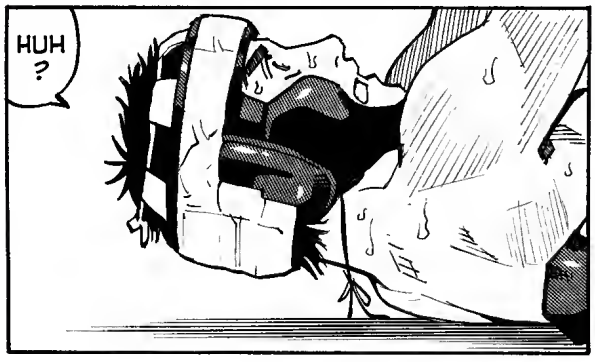
SNAP
ばっ


GOOD WORK, SHIGERU! KEEP HIM PINNED!
RED.
PIN!
SIDE!

HE'S GONNA SUBMIT ME IF I DON'T MOVE!
SHIT!
NOW GO FOR THE SUB-MISSION!
YOU GOT A POINT, SHIGERU!
TEN SEC-ONDS!


THMP

FWOO


HUH ?

HE'S JUST LETTING HIM TAKE POSITION!
THAT IDIOT!
THE SCORE IS 6-2...
GET-TING THE TAKEDOWN BROKE HIS FOCUS.

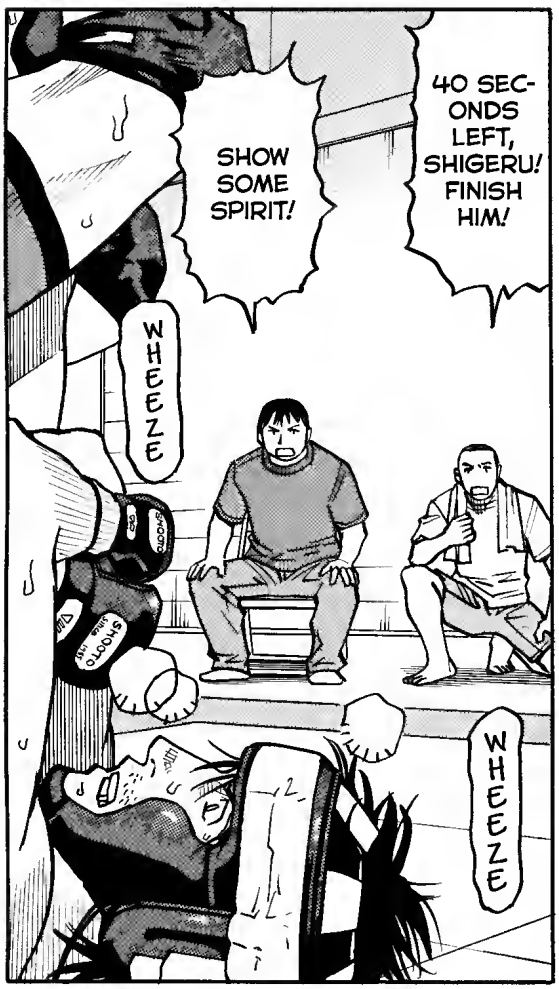
RED!
FULL MOUNT !
WHAAA?!

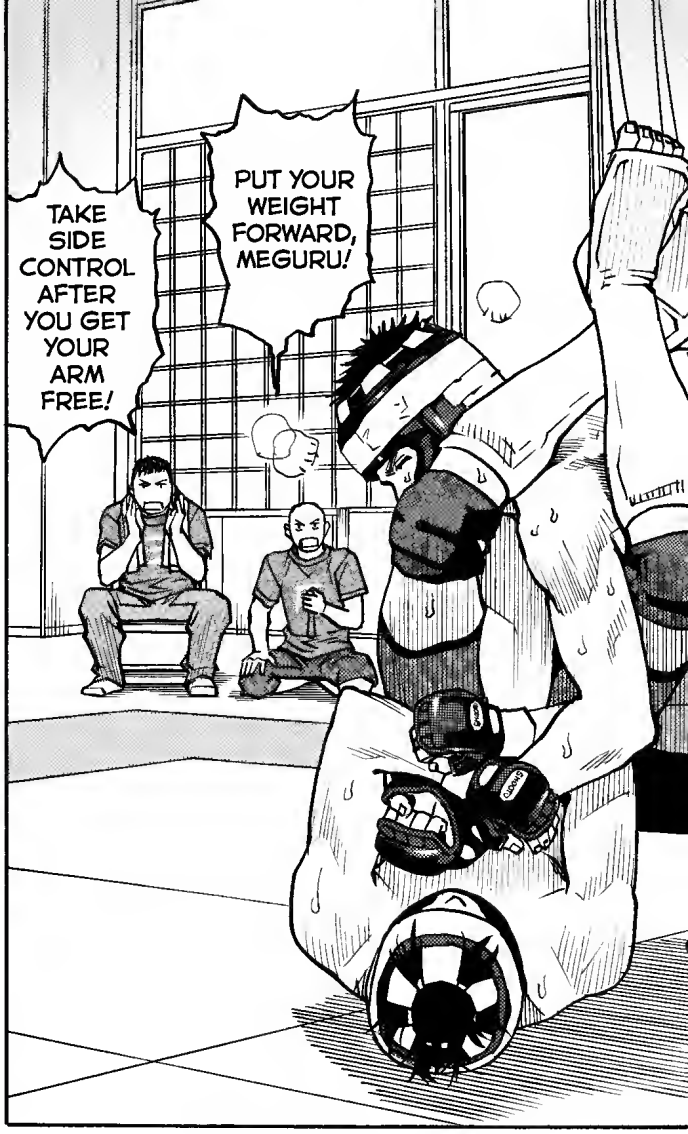
SQUEE キュッ
THIS IS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
IT ONLY MAKES SENSE THAT I CAN DO EVERYTHING!
LATCH
GRAB
WHOA!
FWIP

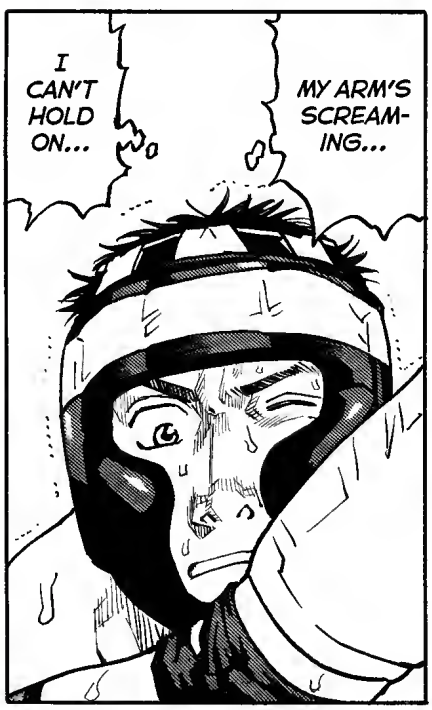
HANG IN THERE, MEGURU! PUT YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD AND CRUSH HIM!
WATCH YOUR FEET! DON'T SLIP!
ARRRGH!
CATCH!
NOT HAPPEN-ING!
!
LATCH!!

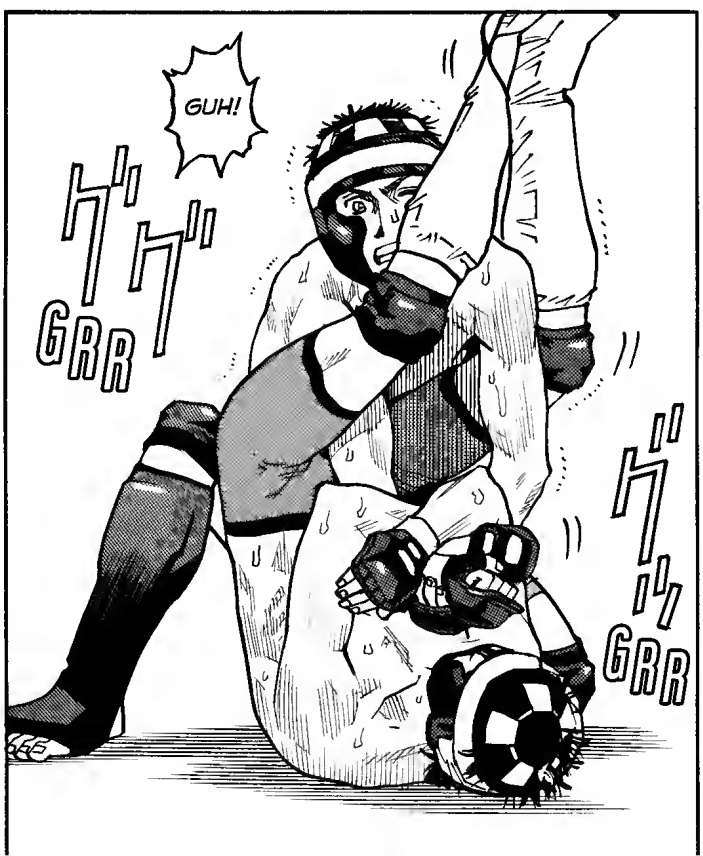
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
SUBMIT HIM!
40 SECONDS LEFT, SHIGERU!
DAMN IT! HOLD ON!
MY ARM IS KILLING ME...
I KNOW I'LL GET AN OPENING IF I CAN JUST GET MY ARM FREE!
ERGH!
GRR

CH. 33 | TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND (PART FOUR)


40 SECONDS LEFT, SHIGERU! FINISH HIM!
SHOW SOME SPIRIT!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

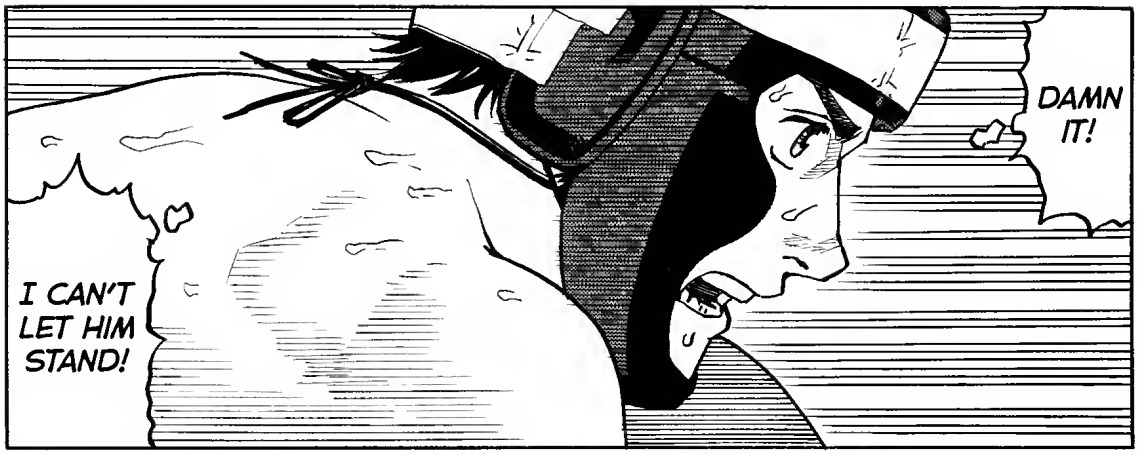

PUT YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD, MEGURU!
TAKE SIDE CONTROL AFTER YOU GET YOUR ARM FREE!

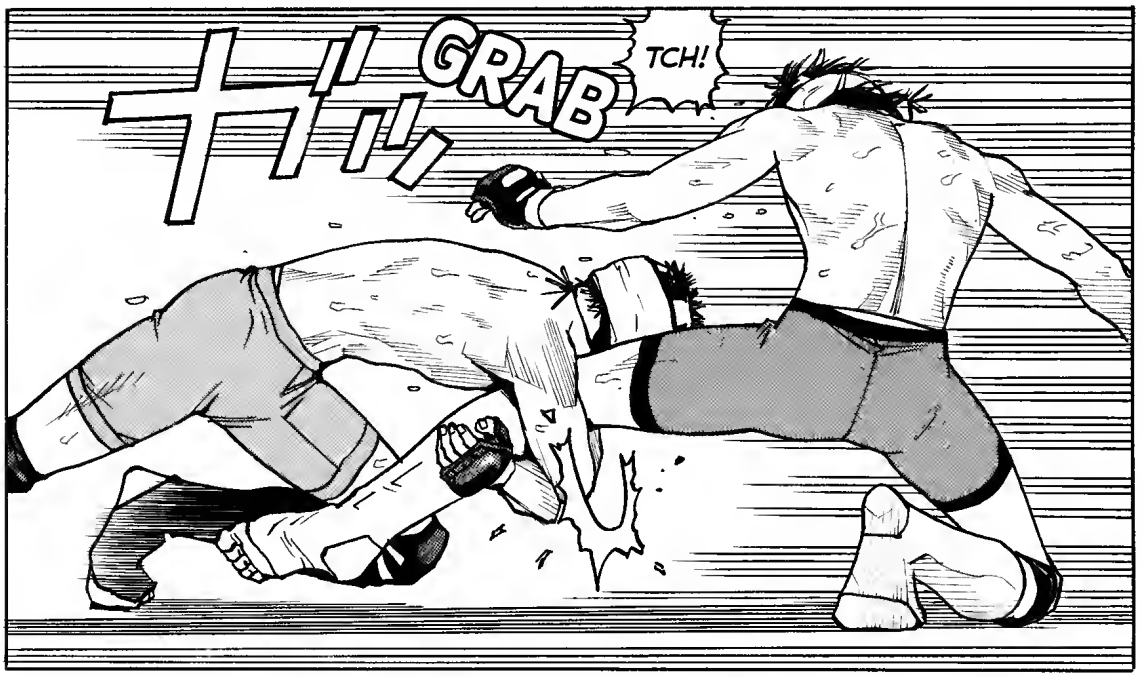

I CAN'T HOLD ON...
MY ARM'S SCREAMING...

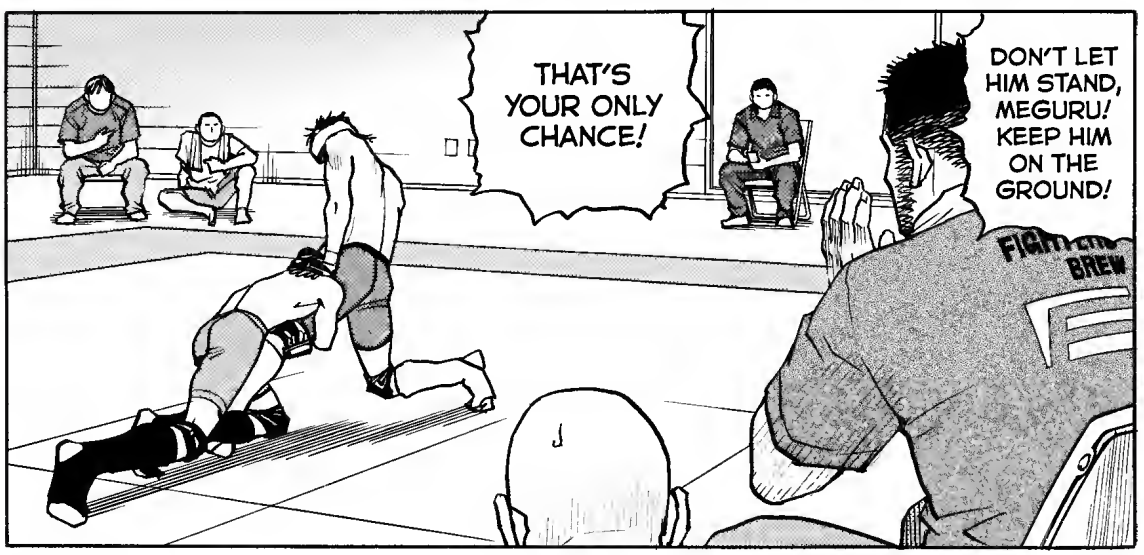

GUH!
GRR
GRR

DAMN!
NO DICE ?!
IF I CAN JUST SWEEP HIS LEFT LEG...
MY ABS ARE SPAS-MING.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
IN THAT CASE ...
I SHOULD BE AHEAD IN POINTS.
LATCH
!
FWIP

FWIP
HE'S GOIN' FOR A TRIAN-GLE!
GET UP!
THMP
SKFF


DAMN IT!
I CAN'T LET HIM STAND!

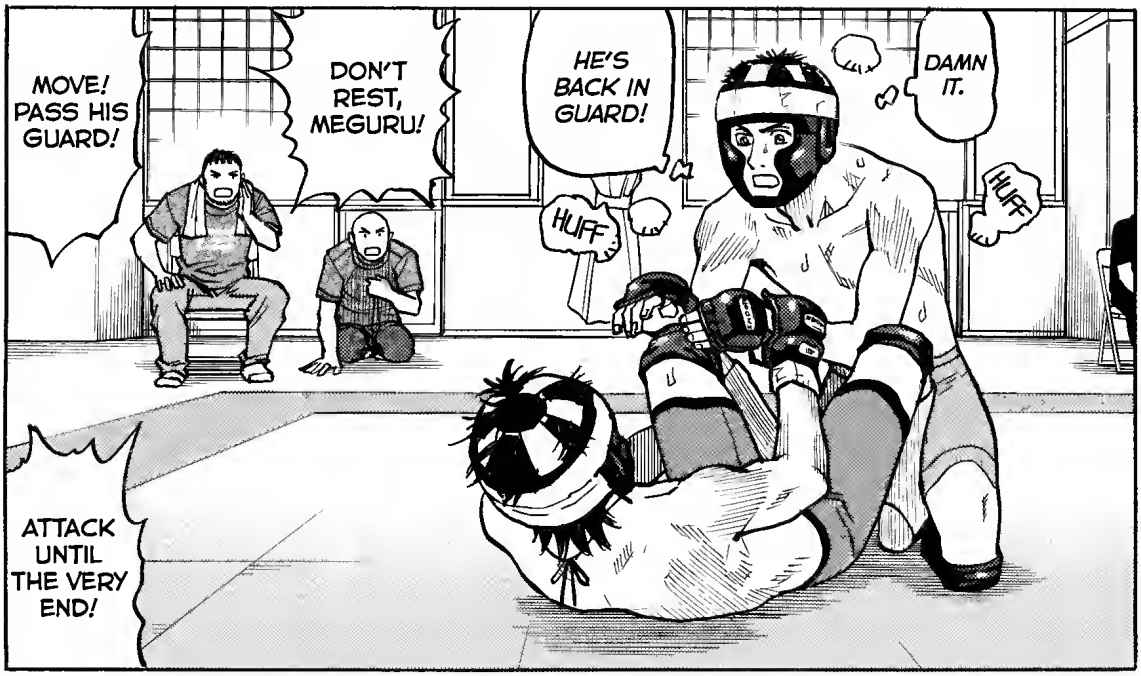

GRAB
TCH!

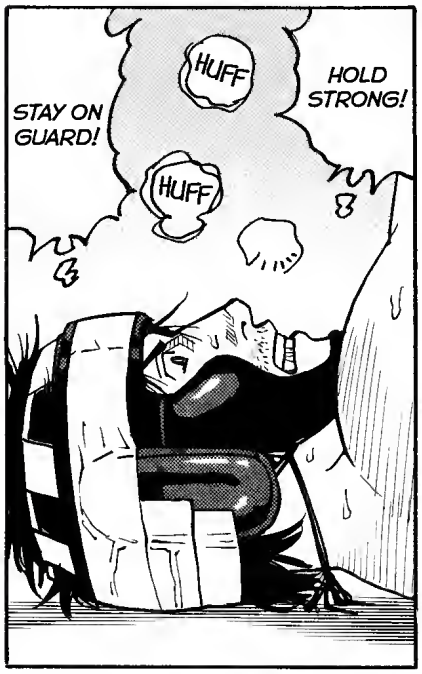

THAT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
DON'T LET HIM STAND, MEGURU! KEEP HIM ON THE GROUND!
BREW

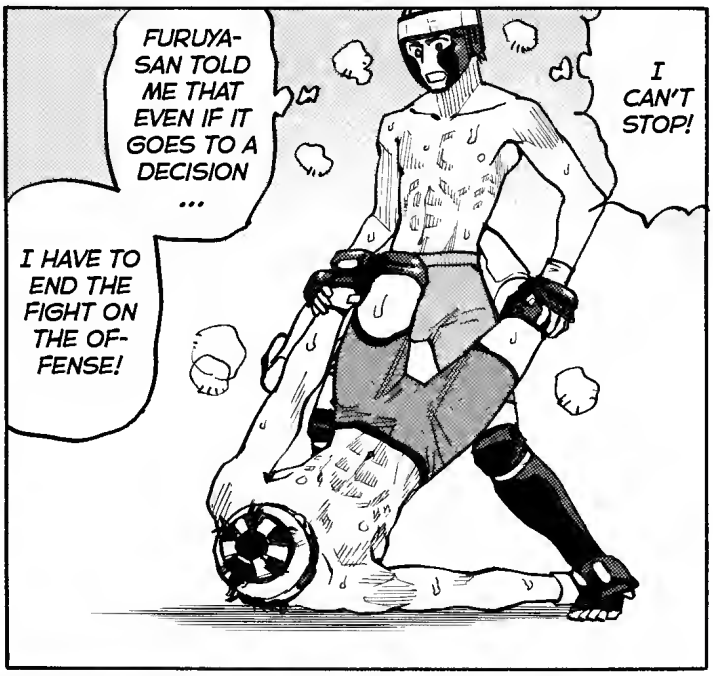
JUST GIVE UP, ALREADY!
EVEN IF YOU TAKE ME DOWN, YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO PASS GUARD AND SUBMIT ME!
30 SECONDS, SHIGERU!
GRR
HE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE BREAKING HOLDS TO GET BACK ON HIS FEET...
...BUT MEGURU-KUN'S PRETTY STUB-BORN, TOO.
HE KICKED HIS WAIST AND GOT UP.
...AND WHEN MEGURU-KUN STRAIGHT-ENED UP TO DEFEND...
HE SWITCHED FROM AN ARMBAR TO A TRIAN-GLE...

I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO GO ALL OUT!
I HAVE TO TAKE HIM DOWN!
GUH!
GRAB
GYANK
WHOA!
SKFFF

THUD
PIN HIM!
THEN PASS GUARD!
THE HELL ...
HE TOOK HIM DOWN!
HE'S ACTUALLY GOT SOME GUTS.
SQUEE
AH!

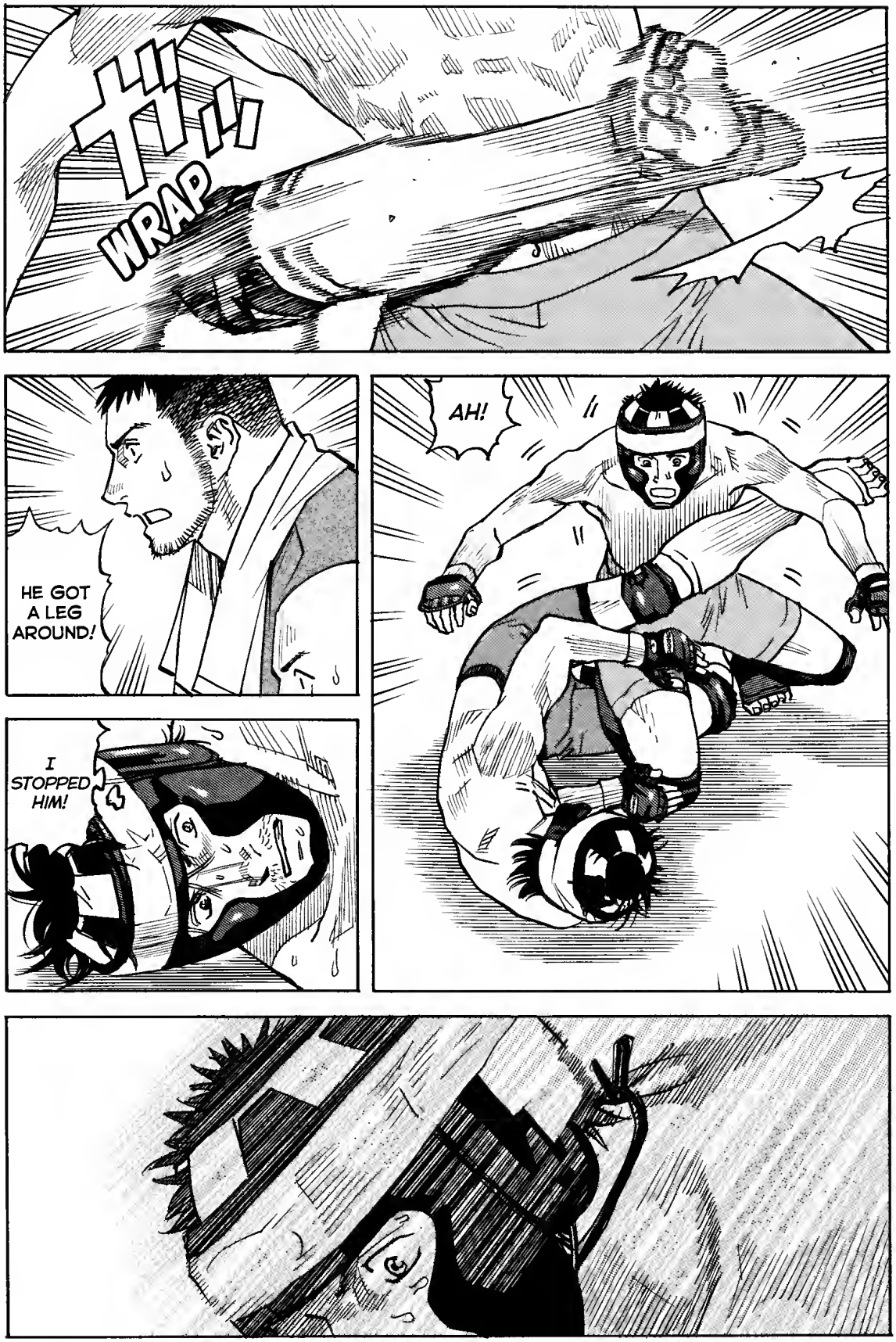

MOVE! PASS HIS GUARD!
DON'T REST, MEGURU!
HE'S BACK IN GUARD!
DAMN IT.
HUFF
HUFF
ATTACK UNTIL THE VERY END!

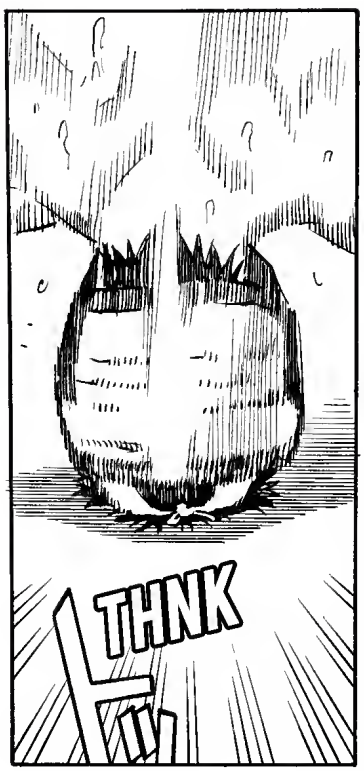

HUFF
HOLD STRONG!
STAY ON GUARD!
HUFF

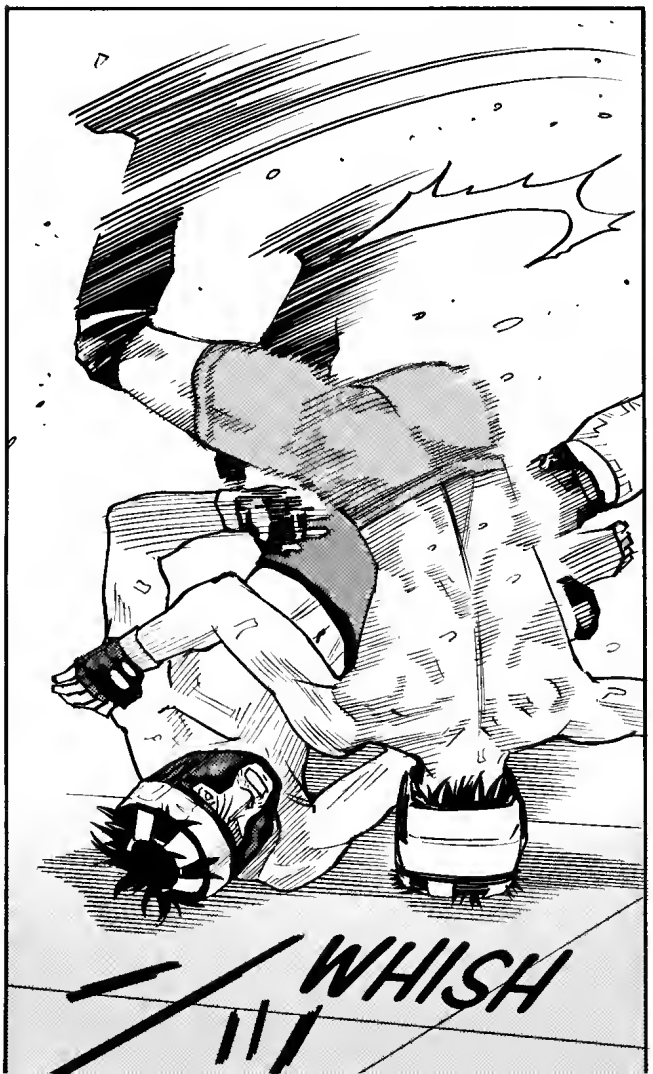

FURUYA-SAN TOLD ME THAT EVEN IF IT GOES TO A DECISION ...
I CAN'T STOP!
I HAVE TO END THE FIGHT ON THE OF-FENSE!

GAH, DON'T HESITATE!
I HAVE TO PASS HIS GUARD!
HUFF
HUFF
IF I GO FOR HIS ANKLE, THEN...
HUFF

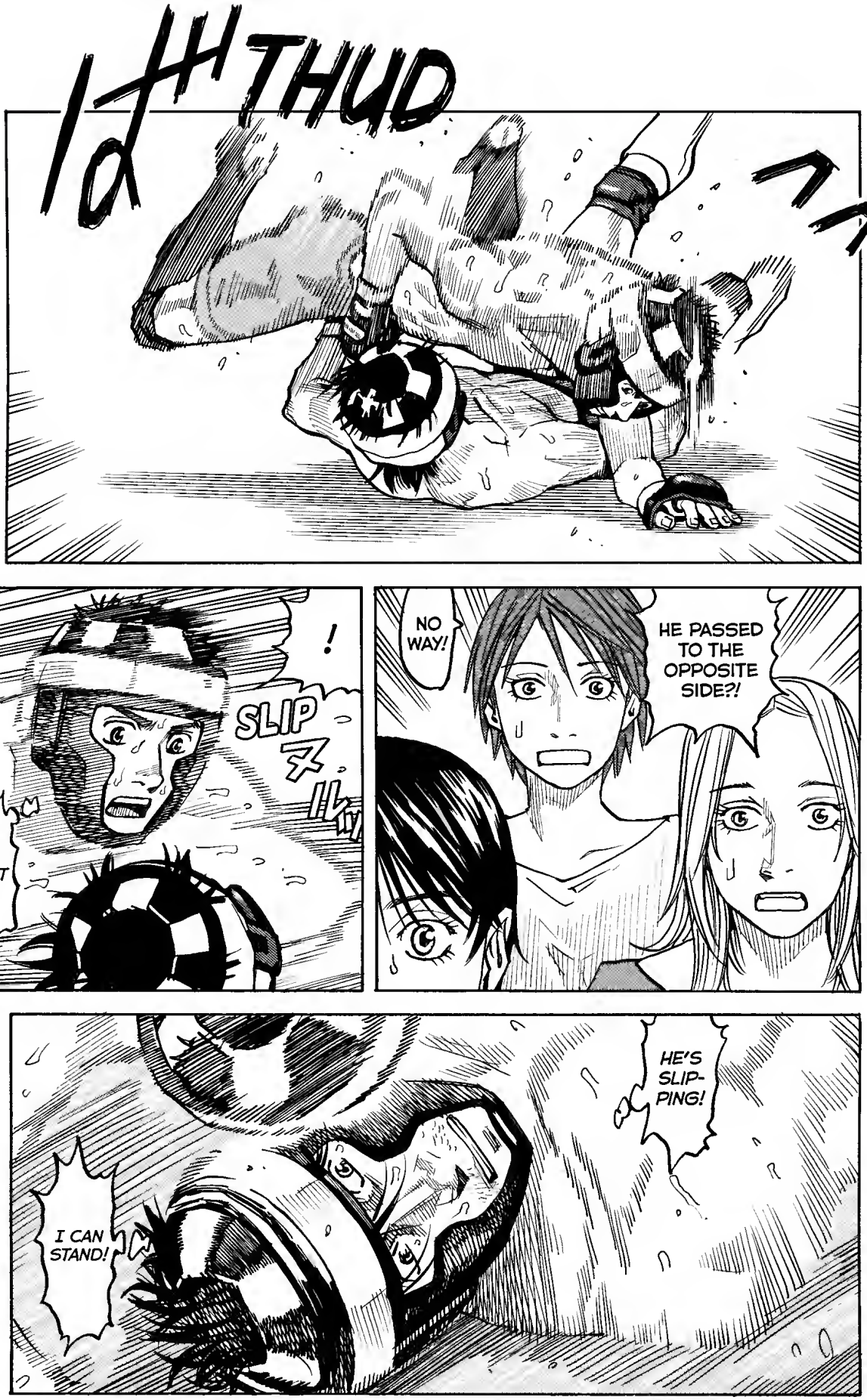
スッ
SWIF
20 SEC-
ONDS LEFT,
SHIGERU!
HUFF
ALL
RIGHT
!
I
JUST
HAVE
TO
HOLD
ON!
HUFF
I
GOT
MY
KNEE
IN!
I
CAN
DO
IT!
!
FWIP

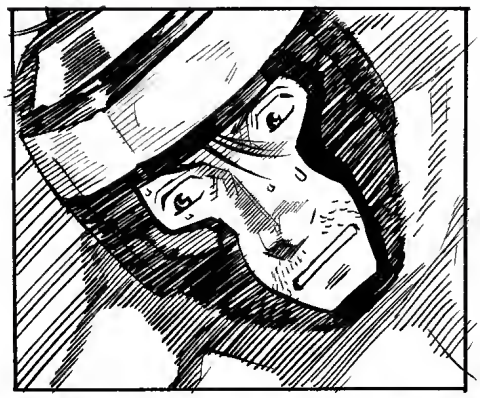

ガッ!!
WRAP
HE GOT A LEG AROUND!
AH!
I STOPPED HIM!


THNK

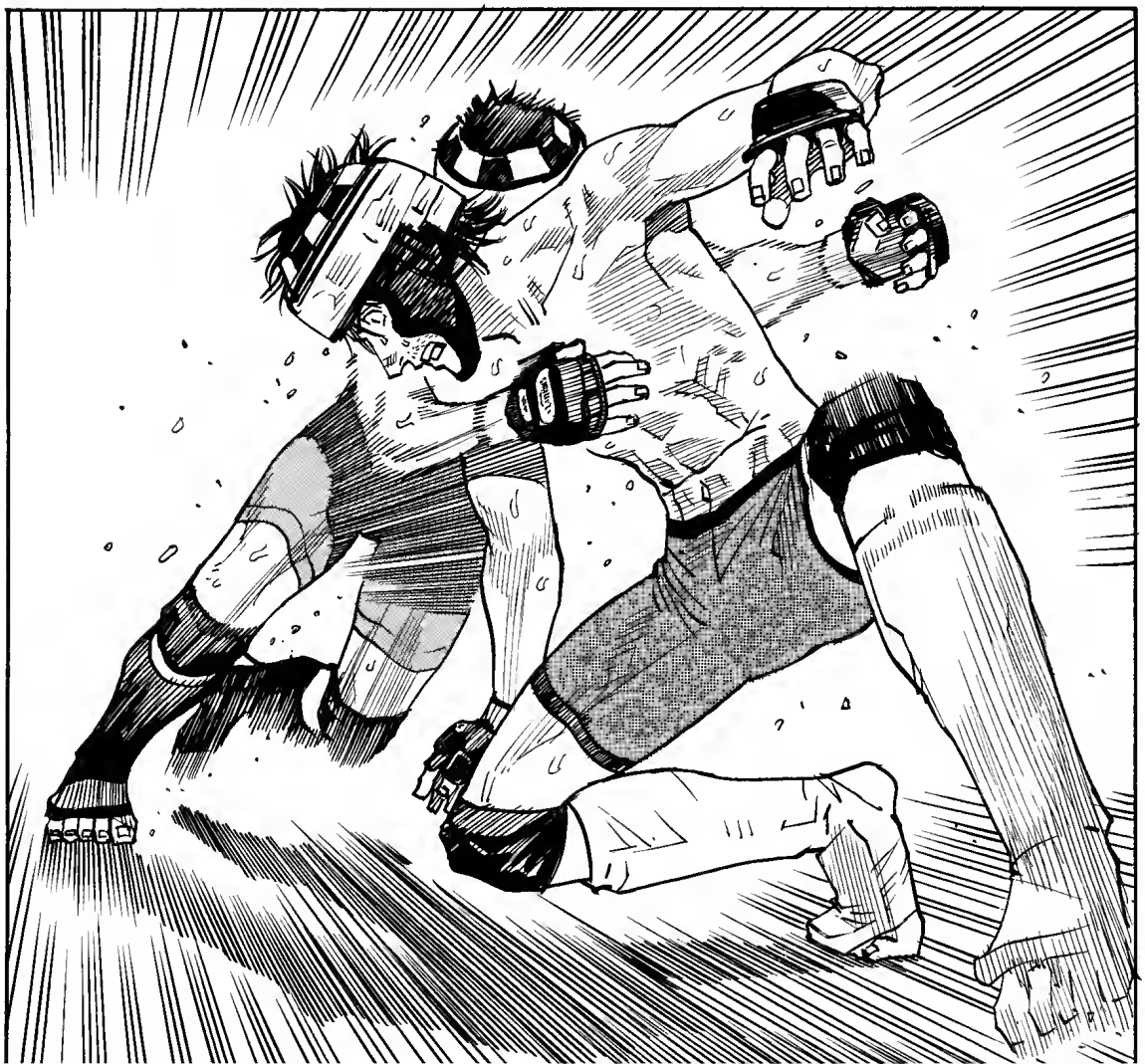

WHISH

FWOO


THUD
!
SLIP
THE SWEAT ...
NO WAY!
HE PASSED TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE?!
HE'S SLIP-PING!
I CAN STAND!



はっ
FWIP



LATCH
...HIS BACK!
HE TOOK ...

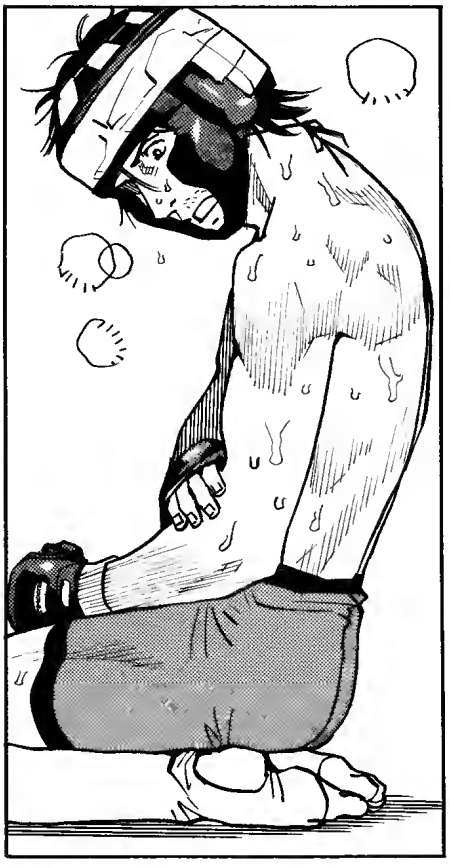
GO, ME-GURU!
SUBMIT HIM!
TEN SEC-ONDS, SHIGE-RU!
HANG ON!
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CHOKE HIM...
IT'S NO GOOD. MY ARMS ARE DEAD.
BUT I'M STILL AHEAD IN POINTS! IF I CAN JUST PROTECT MY NECK...
DAMN! I SCREWED UP?!
I WIN!
FIVE SEC-ONDS!

DING
1"// RIP
RIP 1"///
!

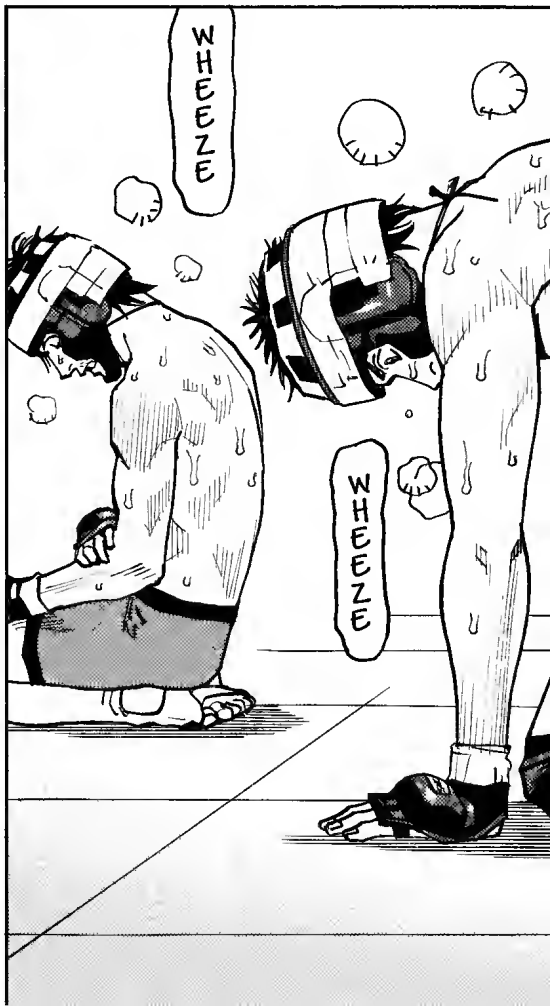
DING
DING
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
MATCH OVER!
DING
REFEREE
DING

TERS
BREW

MATCH OVER!



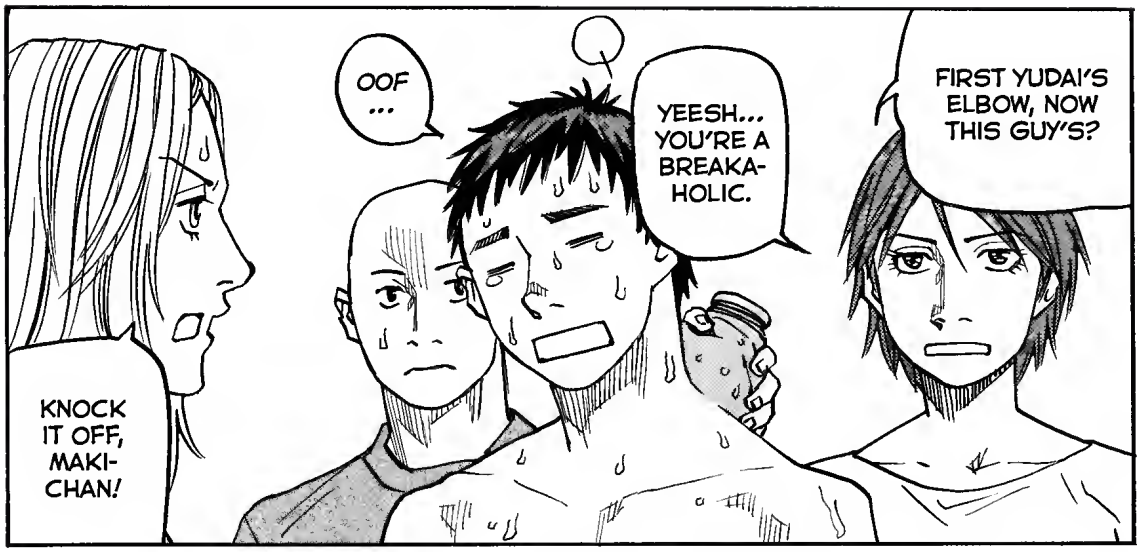
!


WHEEZE
WHEEZE

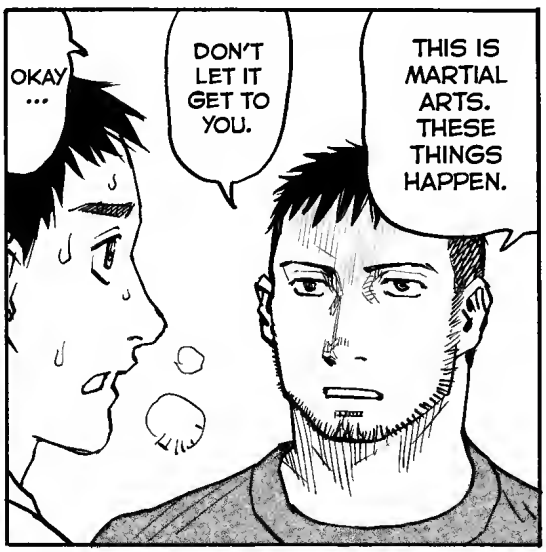
WE'LL NOW GO TO THE JUDGES FOR...
!
HIS ARM STRAIGHTENED JUST BEFORE THE END OF THE MATCH!
CHATTER
THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 3 MINUTES AND 59 SECONDS ...
CORRECTION.
...DECLARING THE WINNER...
...BY TECHNICAL SUBMISSION VIA ARMBAR...
MEGURU TAKAYANAGI!

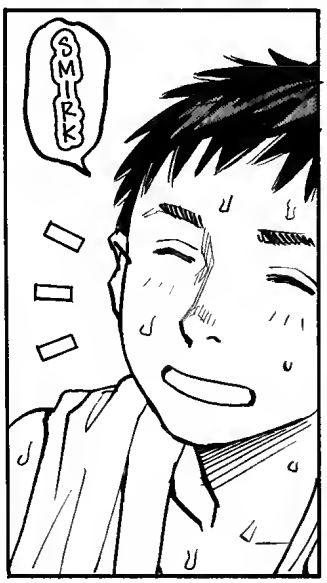
!
UM ...
BUT THE OTHER GUY DIDN'T TAP.
THE FIGHT IS OVER AS SOON AS YOUR ARM LOCKS IN AMATEUR SHOOTO.
HE PROBABLY HURT HIS ELBOW, GIVEN HOW QUICKLY HE WAS SUB-MITTED.
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
LIKE-WISE ...

WHY DIDN'T I WIN?
BECAUSE OF THE ARMBAR YOU TRIED HALFWAY IN.
DID YOU HURT YOUR ELBOW?
BRING US SOME ICE, PLEASE!
...
GO HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK YOU OUT.
...
BUT THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. IF YOU DON'T JUST GO FOR IT...
...AND FINISH THE FIGHT WHEN YOU HAVE THE CHANCE...
...THEN IT'S GONNA BITE YOU IN THE ASS.
YOU COULD'VE FINISHED HIM IF YOU TRIED A LITTLE HARDER.
HE SHOULD'VE BEEN WORN OUT, TOO.
YOUR STYLE OF SCORING POINTS EARLY THEN RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK USUALLY WORKS...

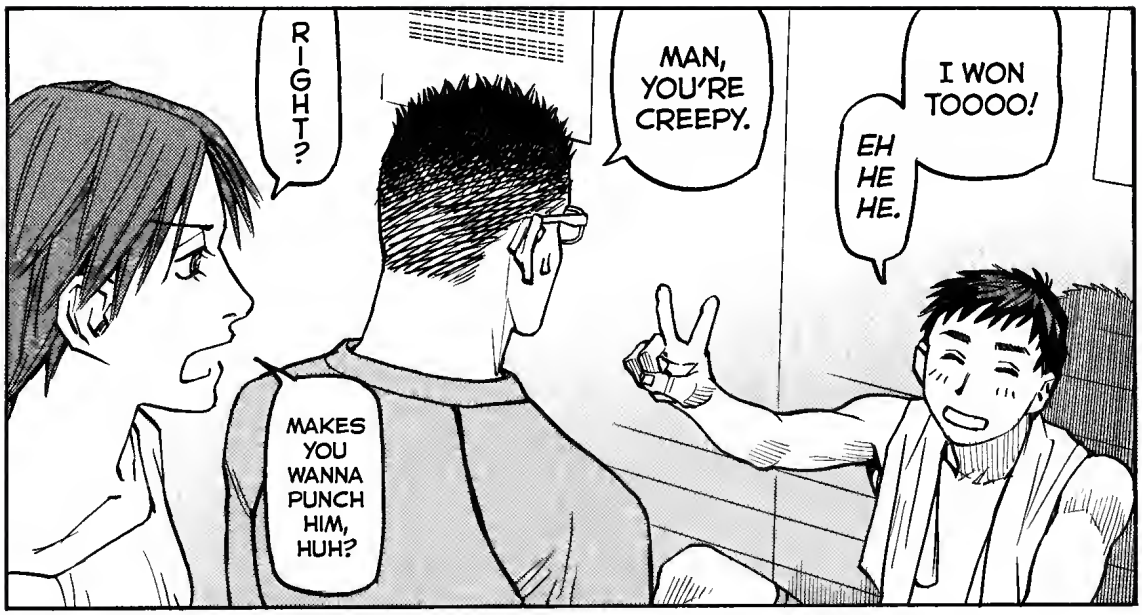

KNOCK IT OFF, MAKI-CHAN!
OOF ...
YEESH... YOU'RE A BREAKA-HOLIC.
FIRST YUDAI'S ELBOW, NOW THIS GUY'S?

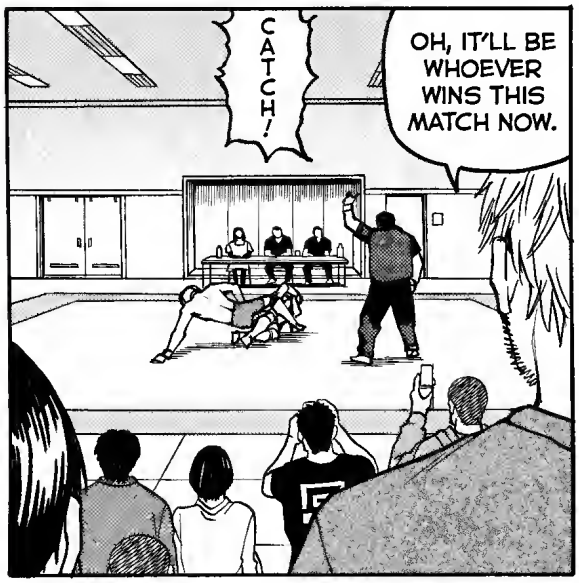
YOU'RE GONNA GET KNOCKED STUPID IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR DEFENSE UP.
YEAH ...
HE DID DROP YOU ONCE, THOUGH.

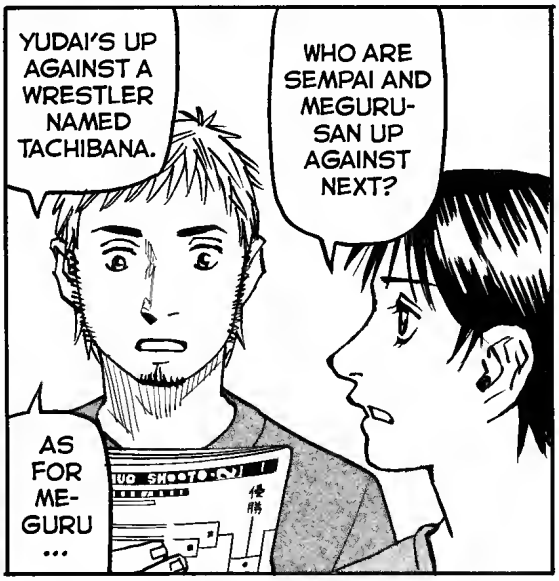

OKAY ...
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.
THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

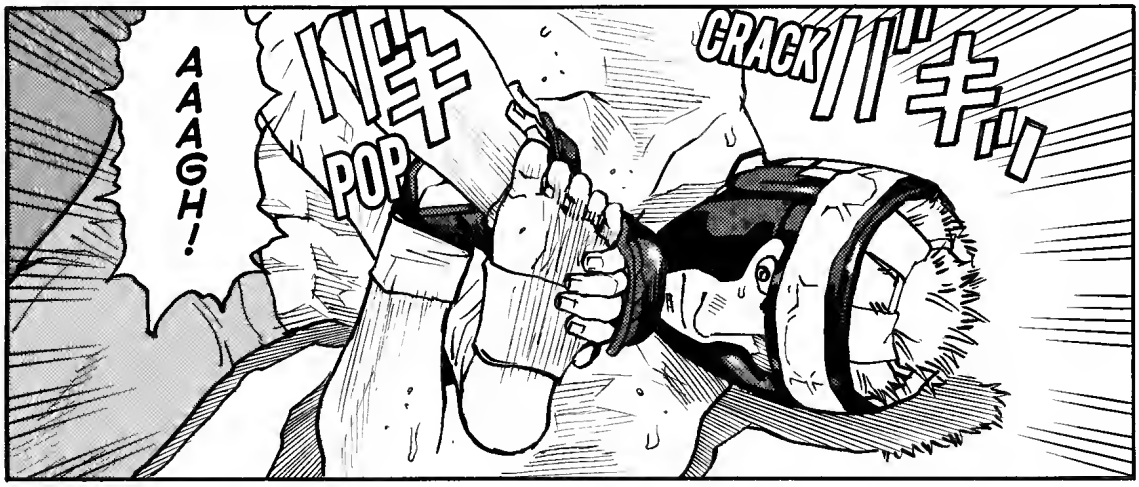

SMIRK

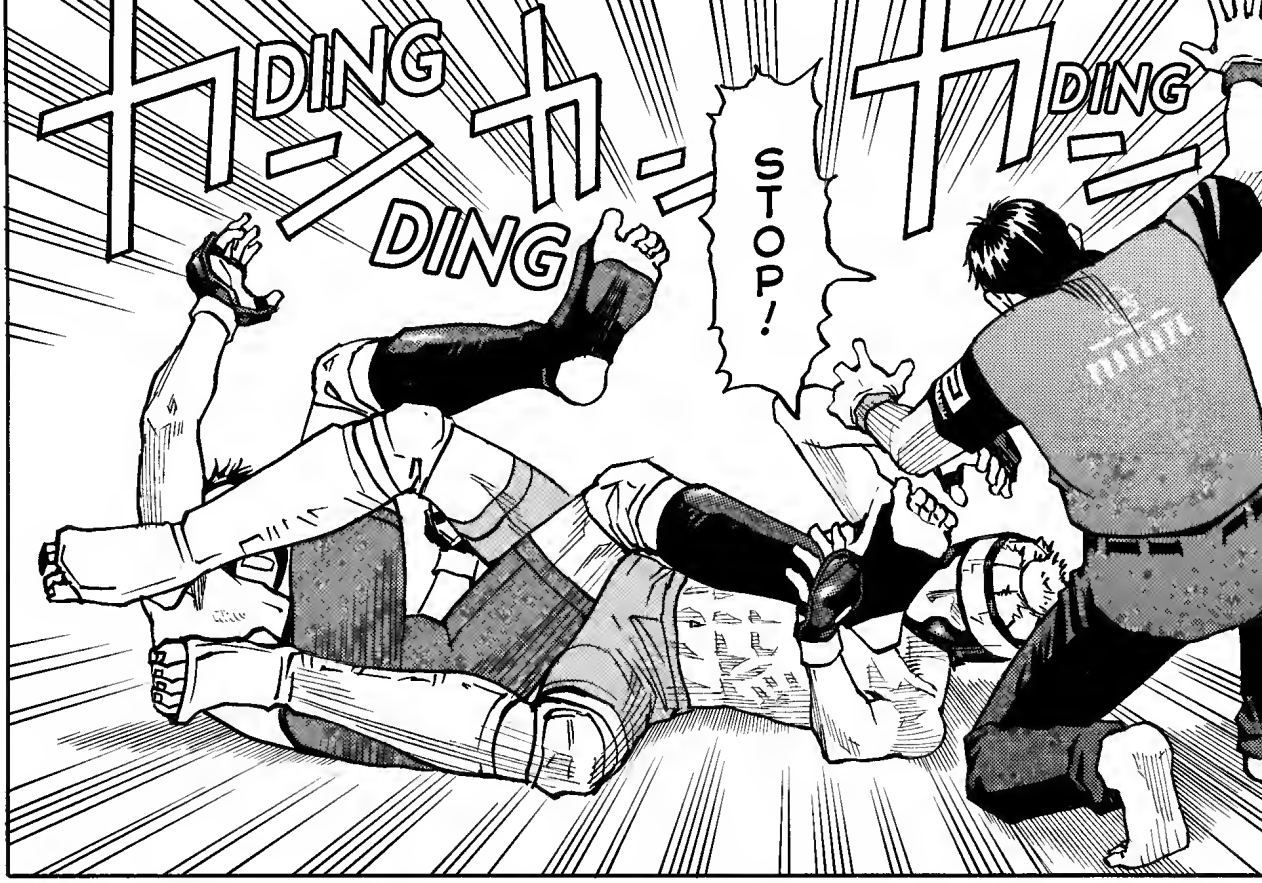
!


I WON TOOOO!
EH HE HE.
MAN, YOU'RE CREEPY.
RIGHT?
MAKES YOU WANNA PUNCH HIM, HUH?

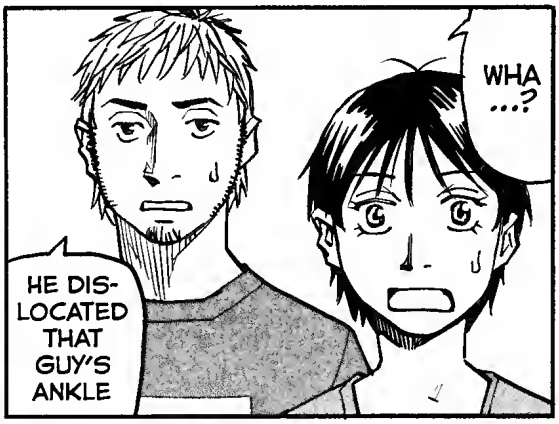

OH, IT'LL BE WHOEVER WINS THIS MATCH NOW.
CATCH!


WHO ARE SEMPAI AND MEGURU-SAN UP AGAINST NEXT?
YUDAI'S UP AGAINST A WRESTLER NAMED TACHIBANA.
AS FOR ME-GURU ...


CRACK
POP
AAAGH!


DING
DING
DING
DING
STOP!

...DECLARING THE WINNER BY TECHNICAL SUBMISSION...
THE REFEREE HAS ENDED THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 46 SECONDS...

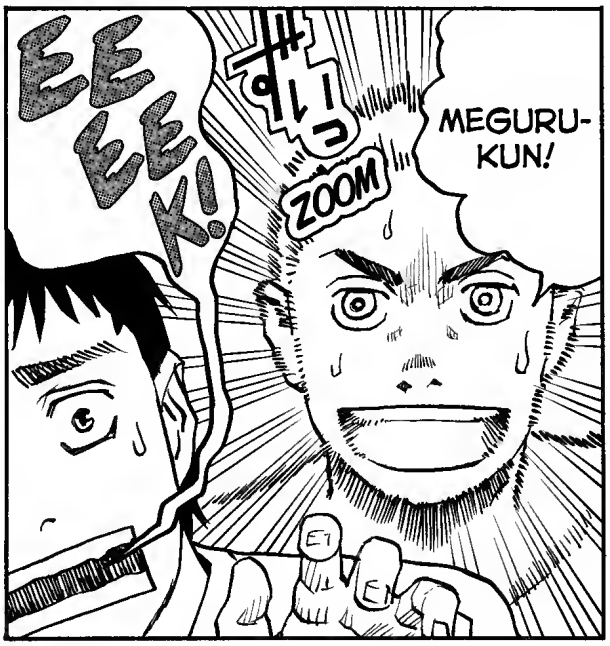

WHA...?
HE DISLOCATED THAT GUY'S ANKLE

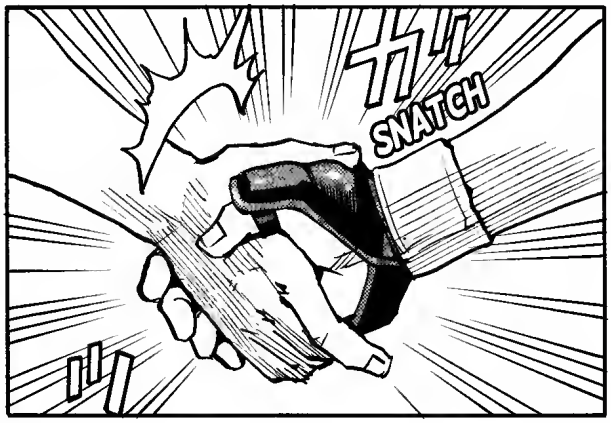
BUT LEG-LOCKS ONLY TAKE A SECOND TO PULL OFF...
LOTS OF INJURIES TODAY, HUH?

...VIA ANKLE LOCK...
KIYOSHI OGASA-WARA!
HUH ?!
TWINKLE
ERGH!
SHUDDER
WHY'D HE BLEACH HIS HAIR?

HERE HE COMES!
EEP!
TMP
TMP

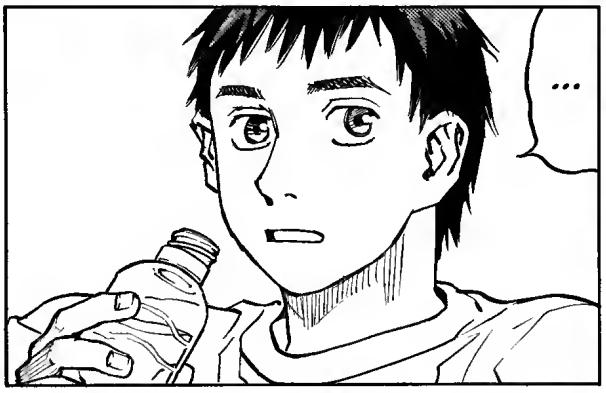
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE UP AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ROUND TWO!
WE BOTH MADE IT THROUGH ROUND ONE!
WHY ARE YOU BLOND?
I WANTED TO CHANGE MY IMAGE!
SHAKE
SHAKE


EEEEK!
ZOOM
MEGURU-KUN!


SNATCH

SEE YA!
FWIP
...BUT I DON'T PLAN TO LOSE TO THE SAME GUY TWICE!
TWINKLE
STRIKES MAY BE ALLOWED THIS TIME...
...
HE GOT ME ...
DAMN IT.
CLEAR THE WAY, PLEASE.
...
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE MONO-TONE.
YEESH. MARTIAL ARTS ARE SO SCAAARY.
HUH ...
HOW CAN HE LOOK SO CALM AFTER BREAKING SOMEONE'S ANKLE?!
WERE HIS SUBMIS-SIONS AL-WAYS THAT STRONG?

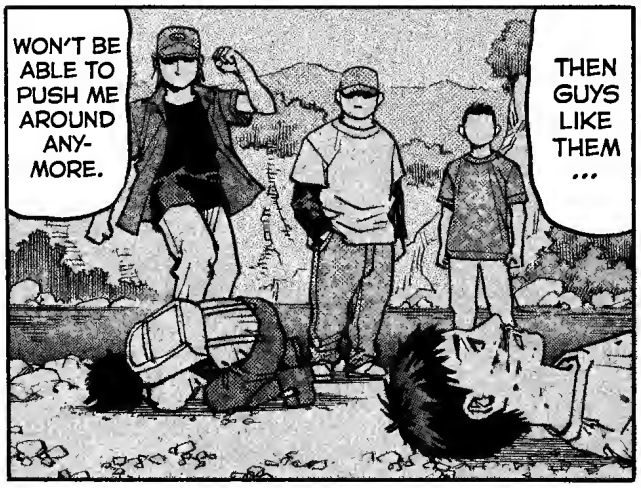
I'M GONNA GET SOME FRESH AIR...
DON'T TAKE TOO LONG.
ROUND TWO'S START-ING SOON.
...
AHH.
WHAT A NICE DAY.
LUTADOR
FIGHTERS GEAR
SHOOTO

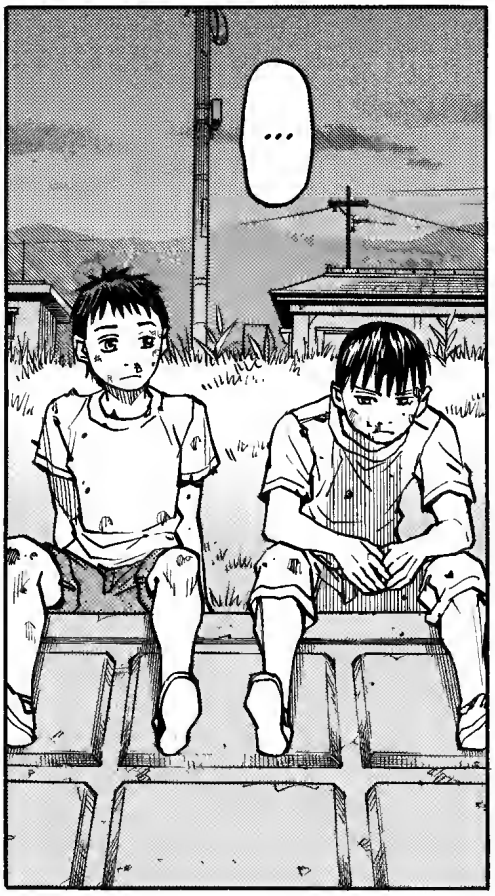


*A SIMPLE FORM OF BASEBALL USING ONLY TWO BASES.

THAT REMINDS ME.
WHY DID I PICK UP SHOOTO, ANYWAY?
GLUG
IT'S NOT AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY, SO WINNING WON'T HELP ME FIND A JOB OR GET INTO COLLEGE OR ANYTHING.
PLUS, THERE ARE WEIGHT DIVISIONS, AND I'D PROBABLY LOSE TO A HEAVYWEIGHT. (JUST WHAT IS "THE STRONGEST," ANYWAY?)
EVEN IF I GO PRO, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT I CAN MAKE A LIVING OFF OF FIGHTING.
SO WHY?

I WANT TO GET STRONGER.


WON'T BE ABLE TO PUSH ME AROUND ANYMORE.
THEN GUYS LIKE THEM ...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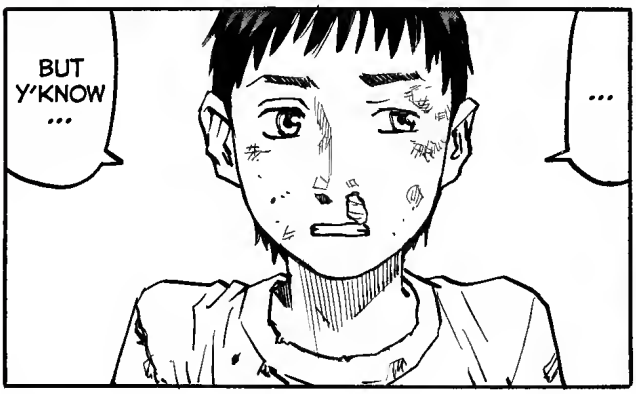
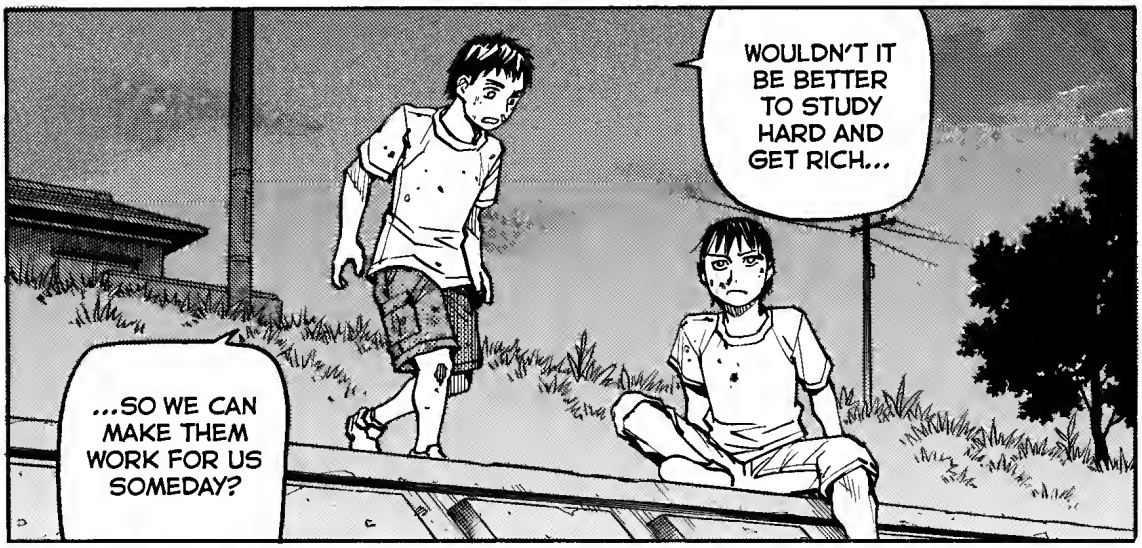
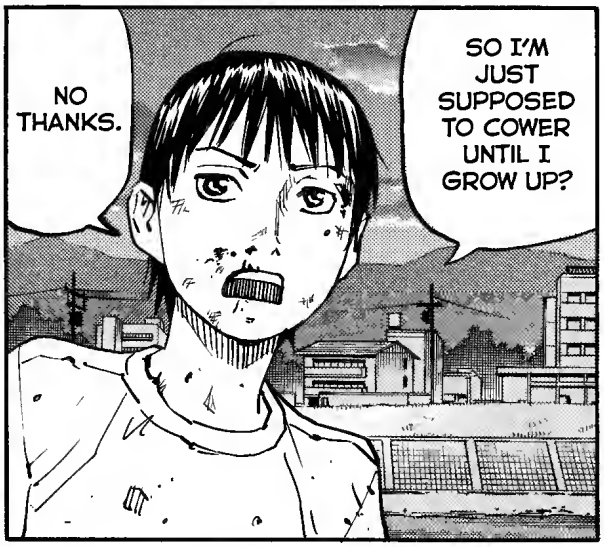
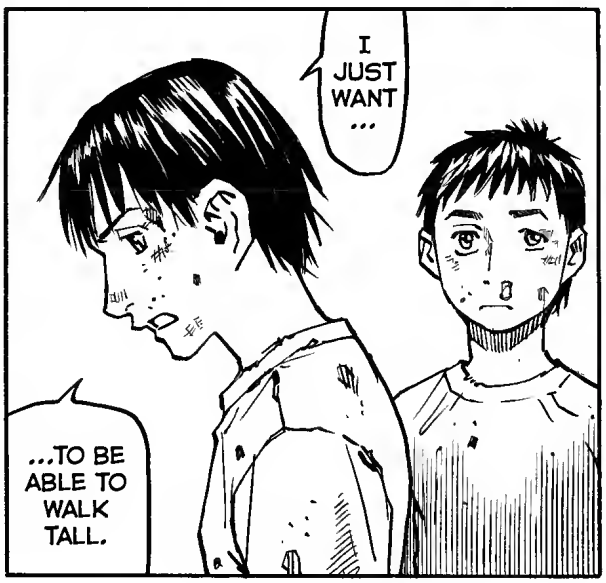
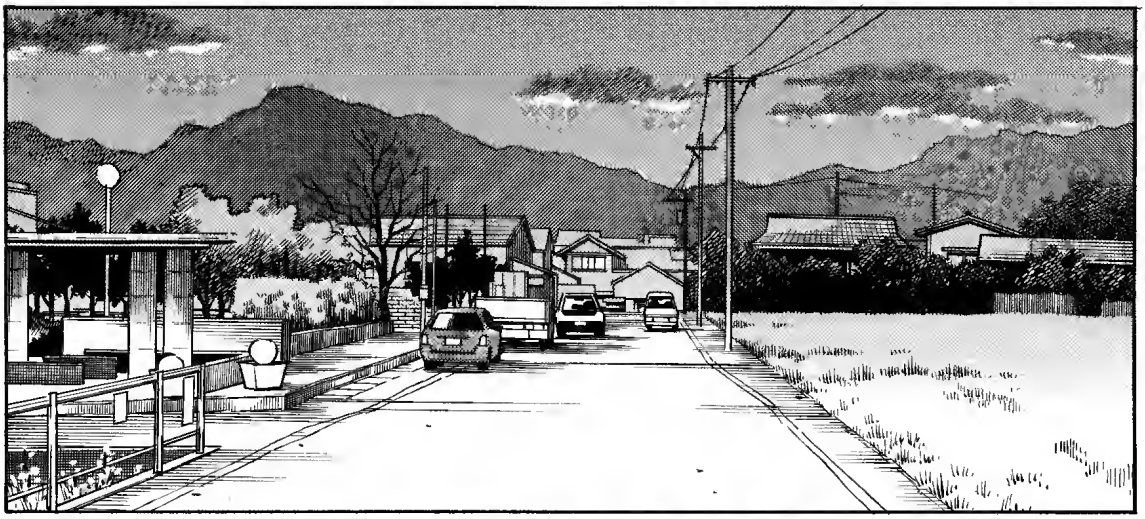

BUT Y'KNOW ...
...


WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO STUDY HARD AND GET RICH...
...SO WE CAN MAKE THEM WORK FOR US SOMEDAY?

EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS.


NO THANKS.
SO I'M JUST SUPPOSED TO COWER UNTIL I GROW UP?


I JUST WANT ...
...TO BE ABLE TO WALK TALL.



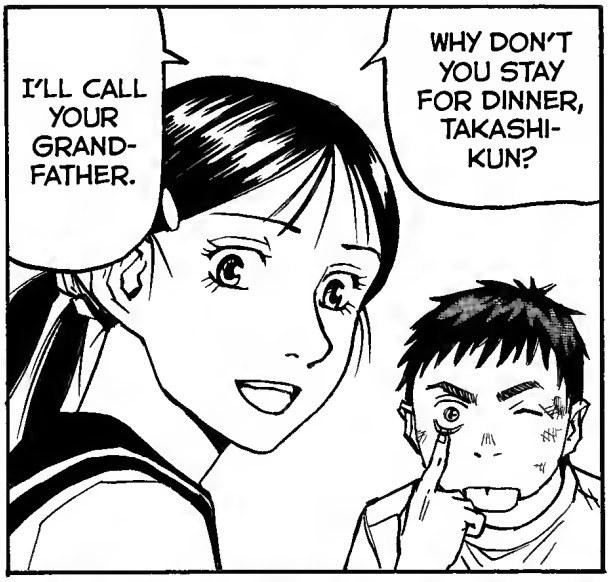
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!
AW, SHUT UP.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SIS.

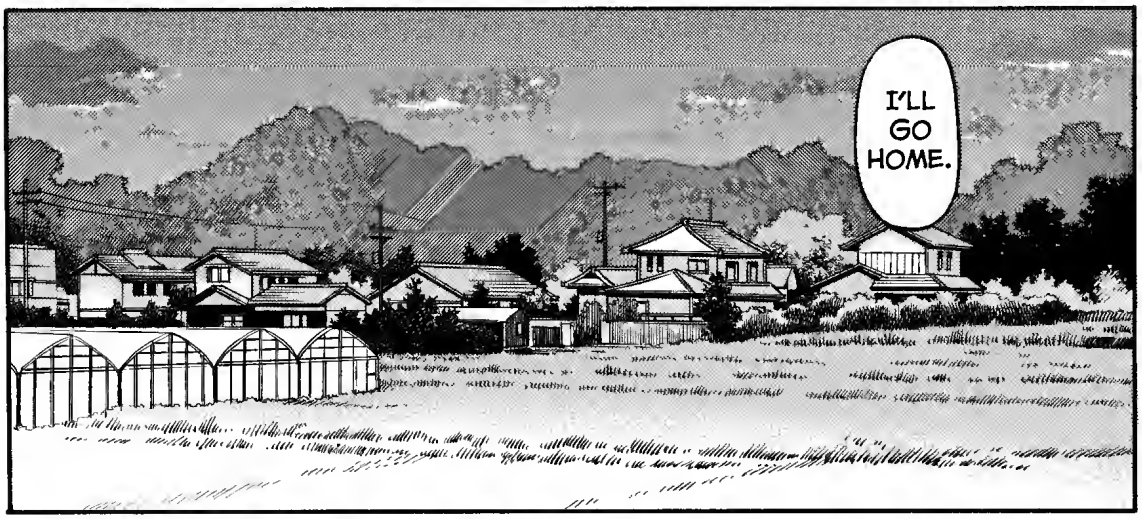
WHAT THE?!
DID YOU TWO GET IN ANOTHER FIGHT?!

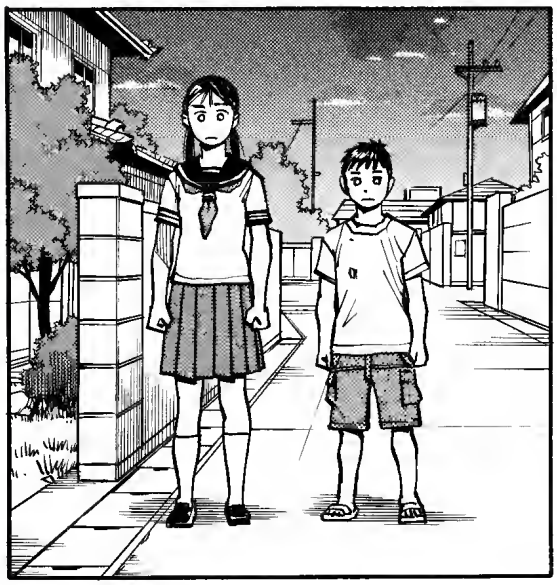
ANYWAY, GET IN-SIDE, YOU TWO!
I'M GOING TO CLEAN YOU UP.

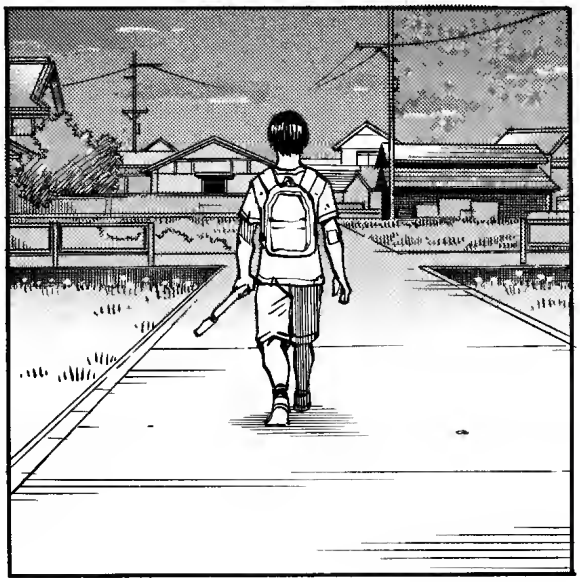
...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
ARE YOU OKAY? ANY CUTS IN YOUR MOUTH?
NO.
I'M FINE.
...
OW OW OW!
THAT STINGS, SIS!
YOU DO KARATE! QUIT WAILING OVER A LITTLE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE!

...
NO
...

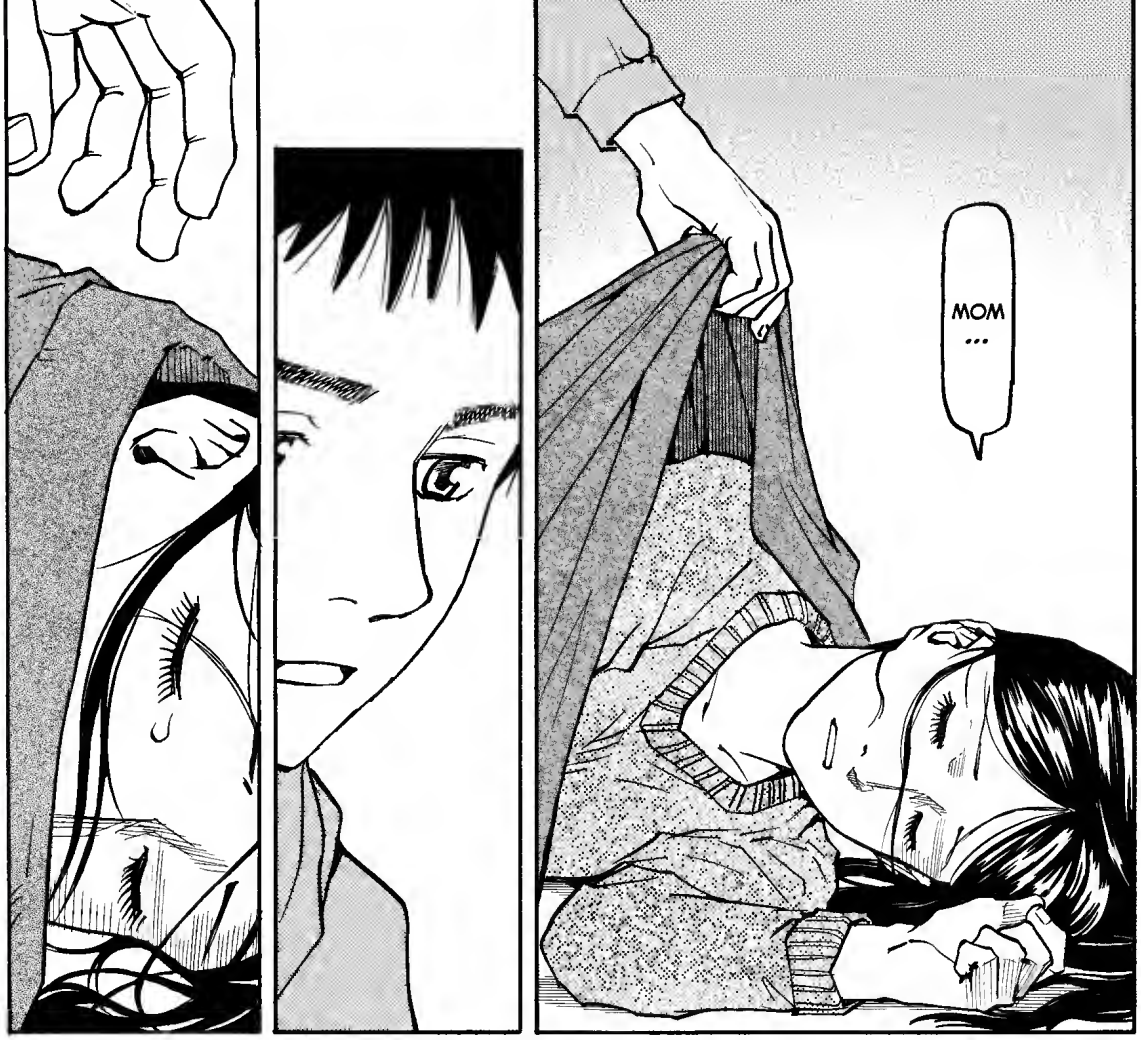

I'LL CALL YOUR GRAND-FATHER.
WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER, TAKASHI-KUN?


I'LL GO HOME.

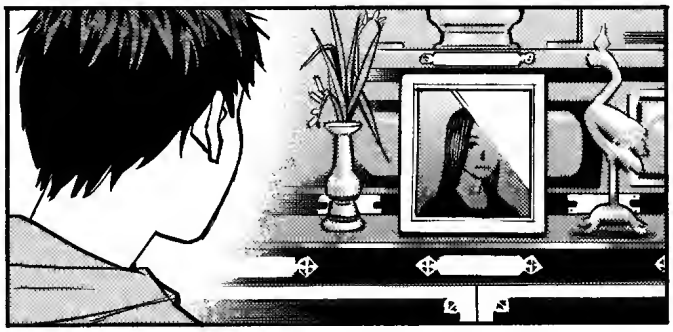


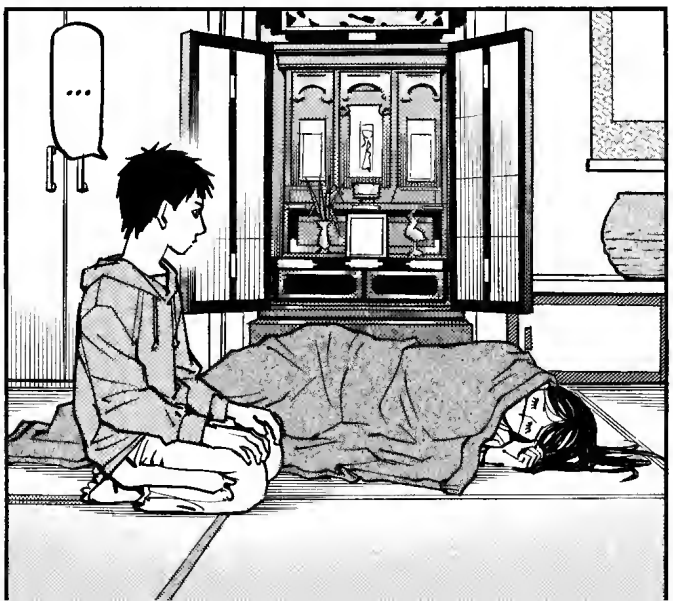


HISSS
SIIIS.
WHERE'S GRAND-MA?
HEY, SIS.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU SLEEP ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT.
...

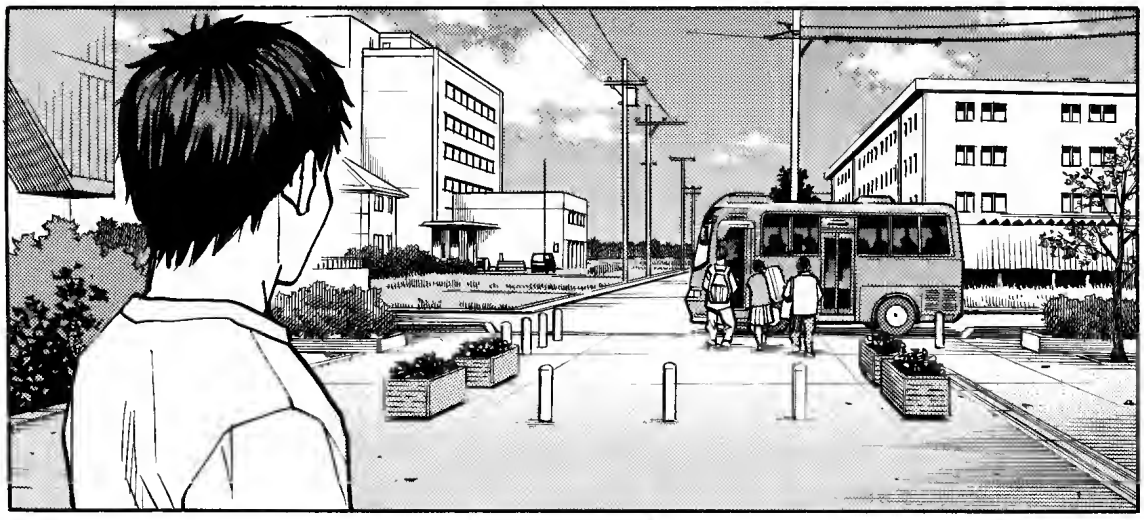

MOM
...

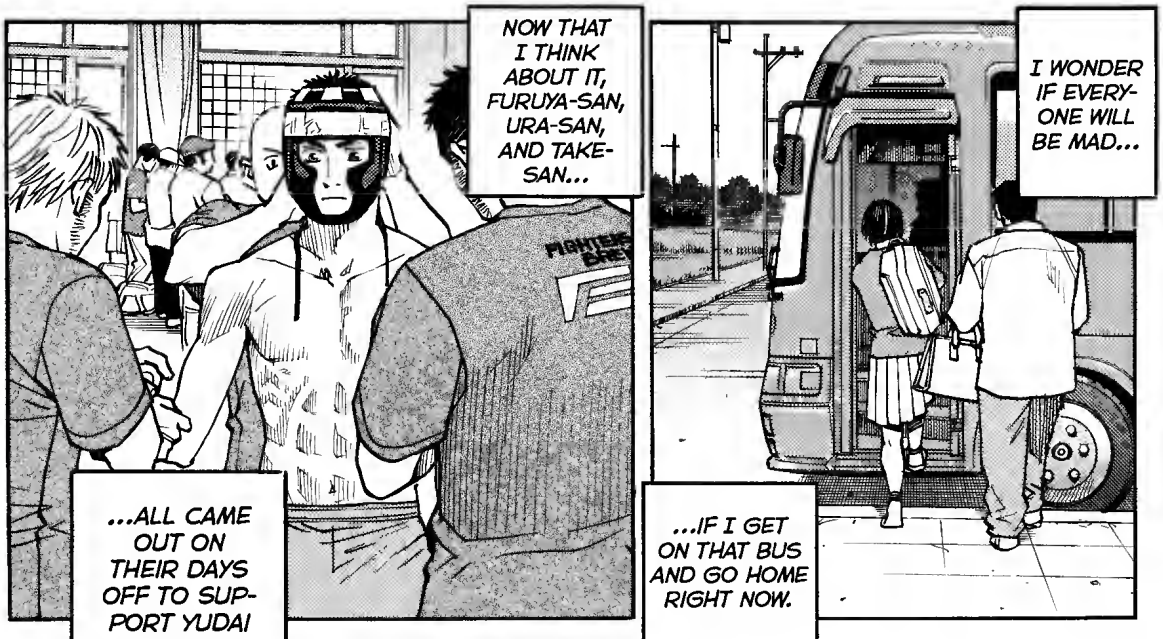
ヒッ
ッッッッ




...

PSHHH
プシューッ

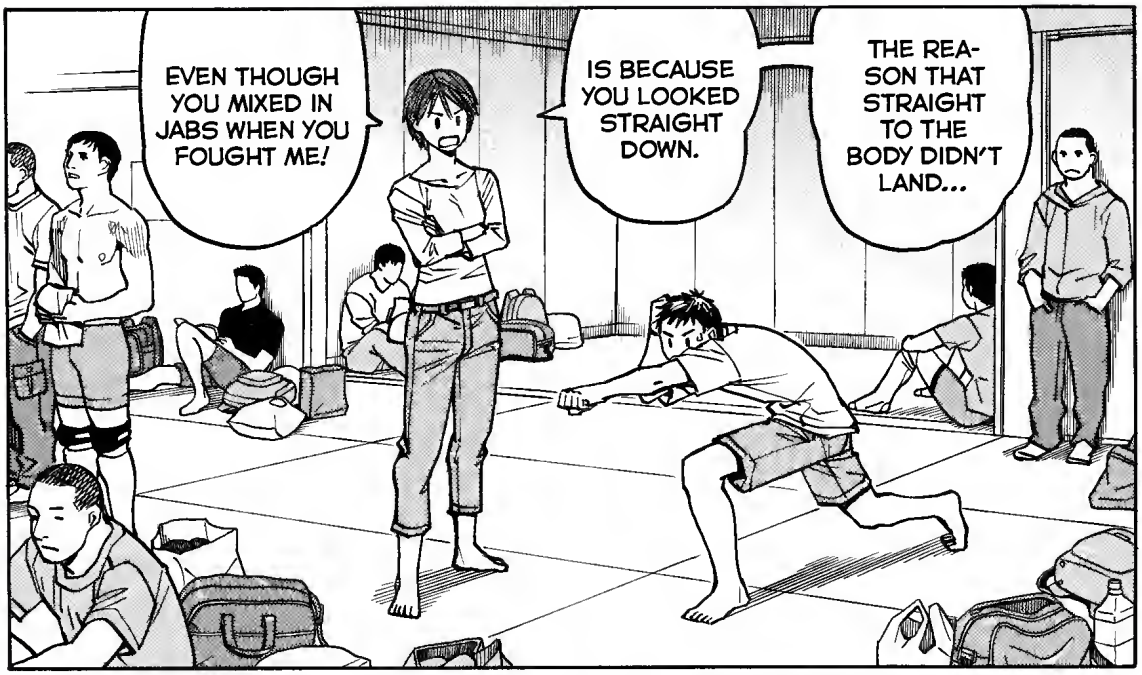


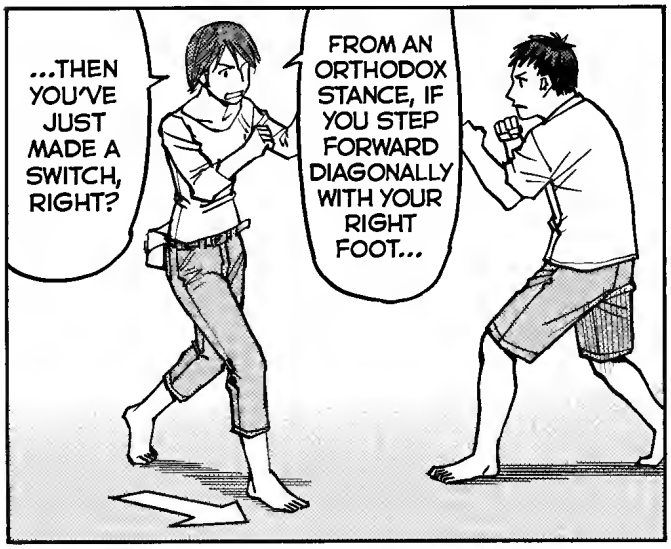

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, FURUYA-SAN, URA-SAN, AND TAKE-SAN...
...ALL CAME OUT ON THEIR DAYS OFF TO SUP-PORT YUDAI AND ME.
I WONDER IF EVERY-ONE WILL BE MAD...
...IF I GET ON THAT BUS AND GO HOME RIGHT NOW.

AND MAKI-CHAN ...
...WHO THREW ME TO THE MAT IN ALL THOSE CLINCHES.
THEN THERE'S NABE-SAN...
...WHO PINNED ME NON-STOP.
CAN'T BREATHE WITH NABE'S STOMACH COVERING HIS FACE.
HEEEY!
C'MON, MEGU-RU!
!
...

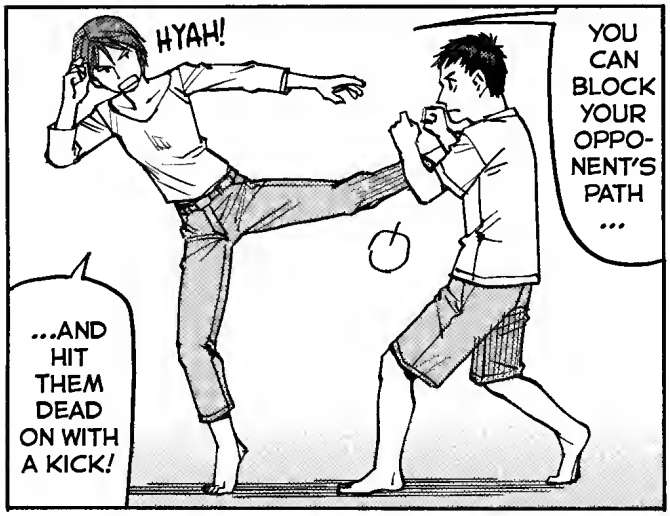
...
FURUYA-SAN SAYS TO COME BACK!
THE SECOND ROUND OF LIGHTWEIGHT MATCHES IS ABOUT TO START!
COM-ING.
OKAY.

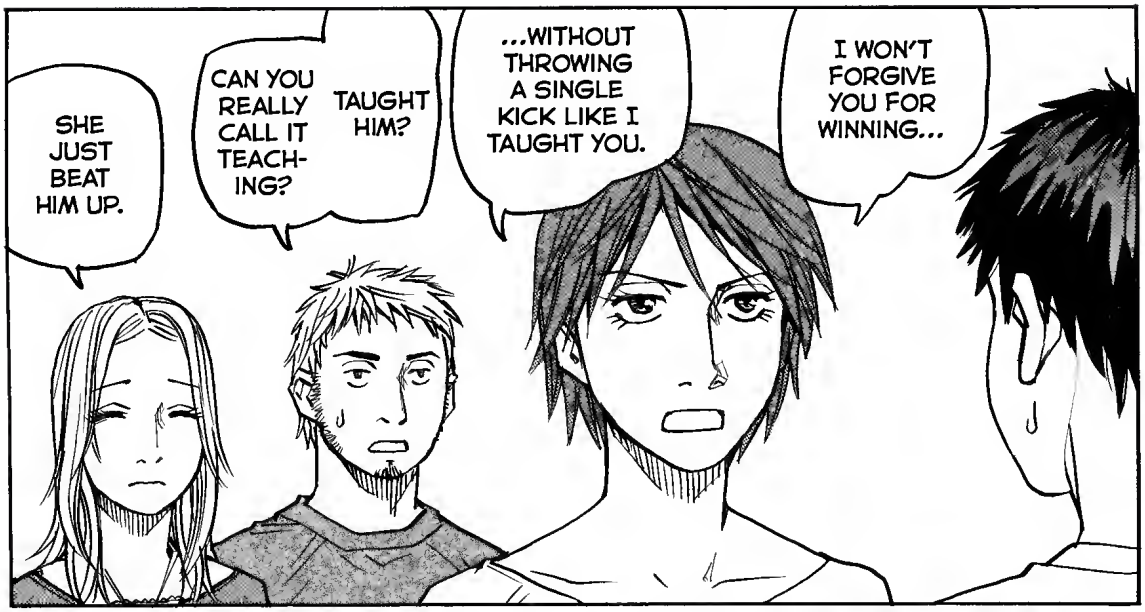
CH. 35 | TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND – YUDAI (PART ONE)


EVEN THOUGH YOU MIXED IN JABS WHEN YOU FOUGHT ME!
IS BECAUSE YOU LOOKED STRAIGHT DOWN.
THE REASON THAT STRAIGHT TO THE BODY DIDN'T LAND...

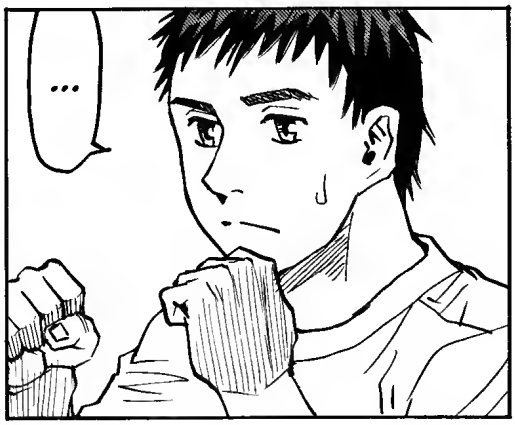

...THEN YOU'VE JUST MADE A SWITCH, RIGHT?
FROM AN ORTHODOX STANCE, IF YOU STEP FORWARD DIAGONALLY WITH YOUR RIGHT FOOT...

YEAH ...
AND YOU DIDN'T THROW A SINGLE LEFT MID KICK, RIGHT?
LEFT MID KICKS WORK GREAT ON GUYS WITH A CROUCHING STANCE LIKE THE LAST ONE!

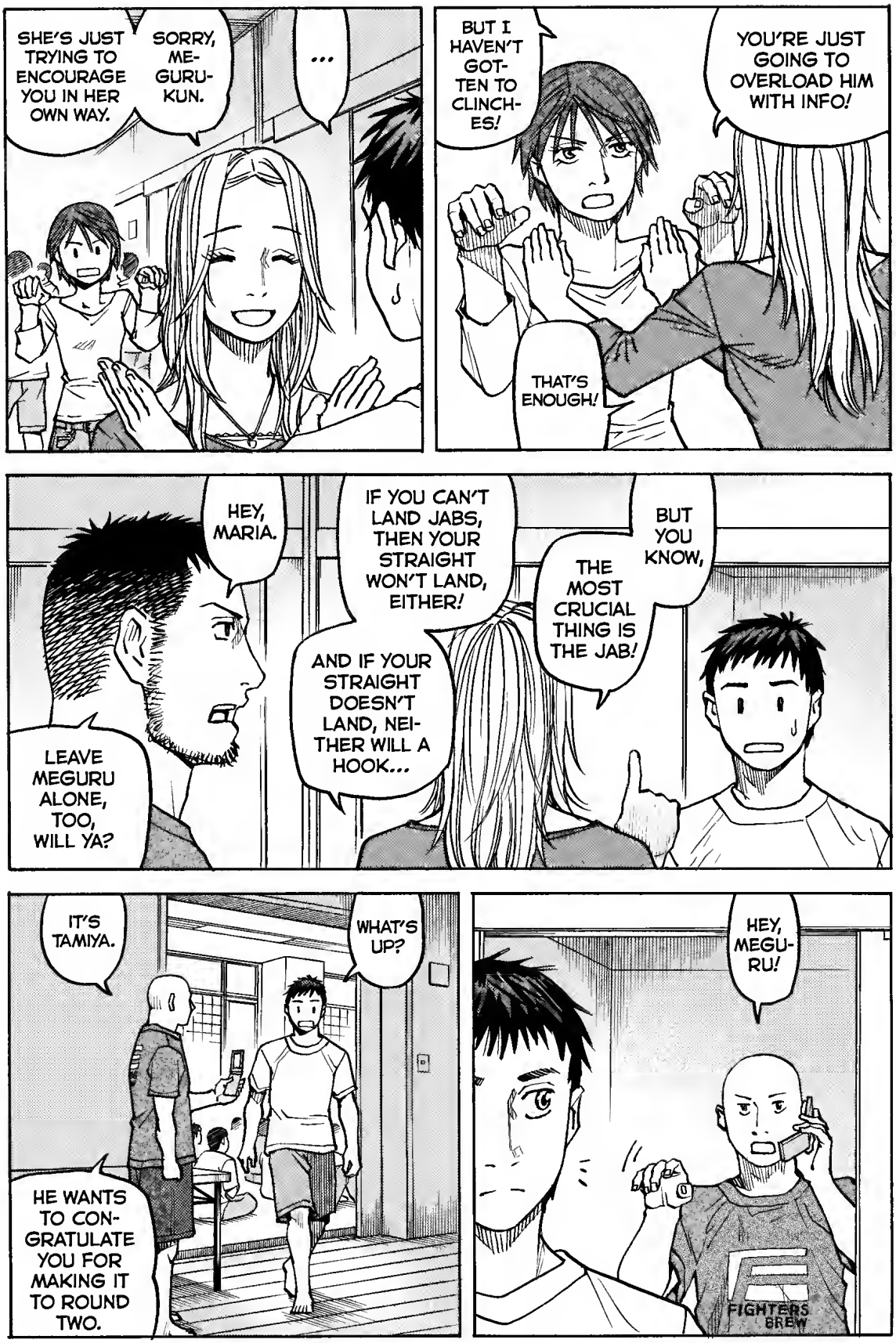

HYAH!
YOU CAN BLOCK YOUR OPPONENT'S PATH ...
...AND HIT THEM DEAD ON WITH A KICK!


I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR WINNING...
...WITHOUT THROWING A SINGLE KICK LIKE I TAUGHT YOU.
TAUGHT HIM?
CAN YOU REALLY CALL IT TEACH-ING?
SHE JUST BEAT HIM UP.

IF YOUR OPPO-NENT BACKS DOWN FROM THE ONE-TWO, THEN THE LEFT MID WILL LAND.
WELL, IN PRACTICE, YOU JUST GAUGE DISTANCE WITH JABS AND KICK IMMEDIATELY.
ALSO ...
MAKI-CHAN! MAKI-CHAN!

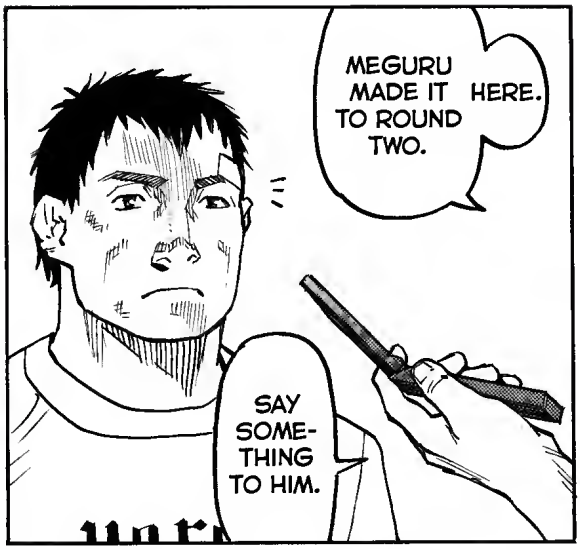

...

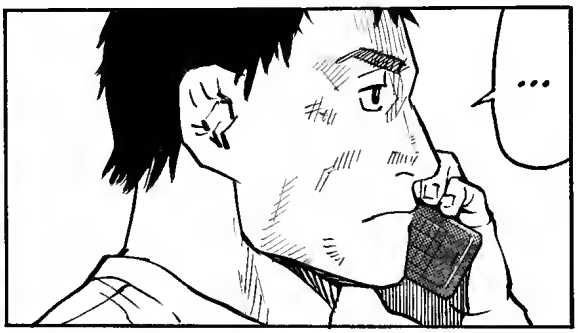
CAN THE BASIC ONE-TWO-LEFT MID COMBO ACTUALLY BE USED IN A MATCH?
HM?
HEY, MAKI-CHAN.


SHE'S JUST TRYING TO ENCOURAGE YOU IN HER OWN WAY.
SORRY, MEGURU-KUN.
...
BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO CLINCHES!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO OVERLOAD HIM WITH INFO!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
HEY, MARIA.
IF YOU CAN'T LAND JABS, THEN YOUR STRAIGHT WON'T LAND, EITHER!
BUT YOU KNOW, THE MOST CRUCIAL THING IS THE JAB!
AND IF YOUR STRAIGHT DOESN'T LAND, NEITHER WILL A HOOK...
LEAVE MEGURU ALONE, TOO, WILL YA?
IT'S TAMIYA.
WHAT'S UP?
HE WANTS TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR MAKING IT TO ROUND TWO.
HEY, MEGURU!
FIGHTERS BREW

THE BULLET TRAIN LEAVES AT TWO, SO THE FINALS WILL BE OVER BEFORE I GET THERE.
HEY! I'M AT NAGOYA STATION NOW!
I HEAR YOU HAVE A RE-MATCH WITH OGASAWARA NEXT.
I MEAN DON'T LET HIM USE ANY GRAP-PLING ON YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, HERE COMES NABE.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE?
DON'T PLAY AROUND ON THE GROUND WITH HIM.
YES, PLEASE!

新
Shi
...?
HMM ...
Yorai
JUST GIVE IT BACK!
IT'S A WASTE OF MINUTES!


MEGURU MADE IT HERE. TO ROUND TWO.
SAY SOMETHING TO HIM.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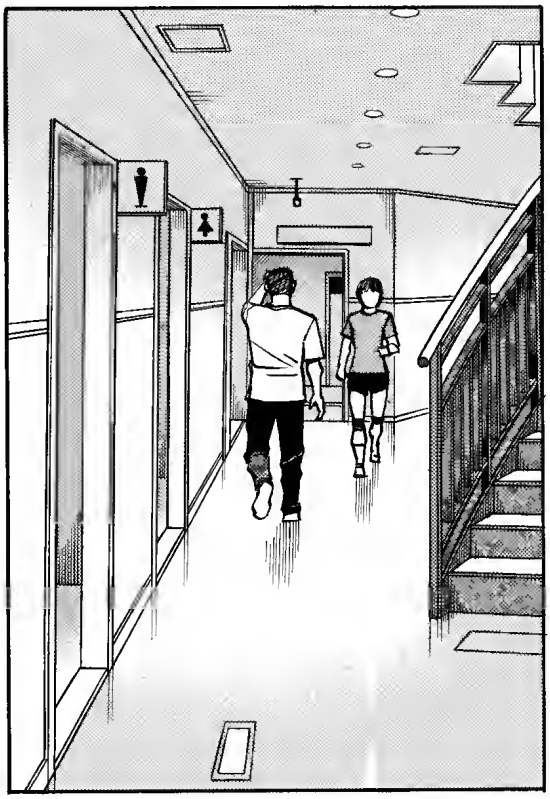
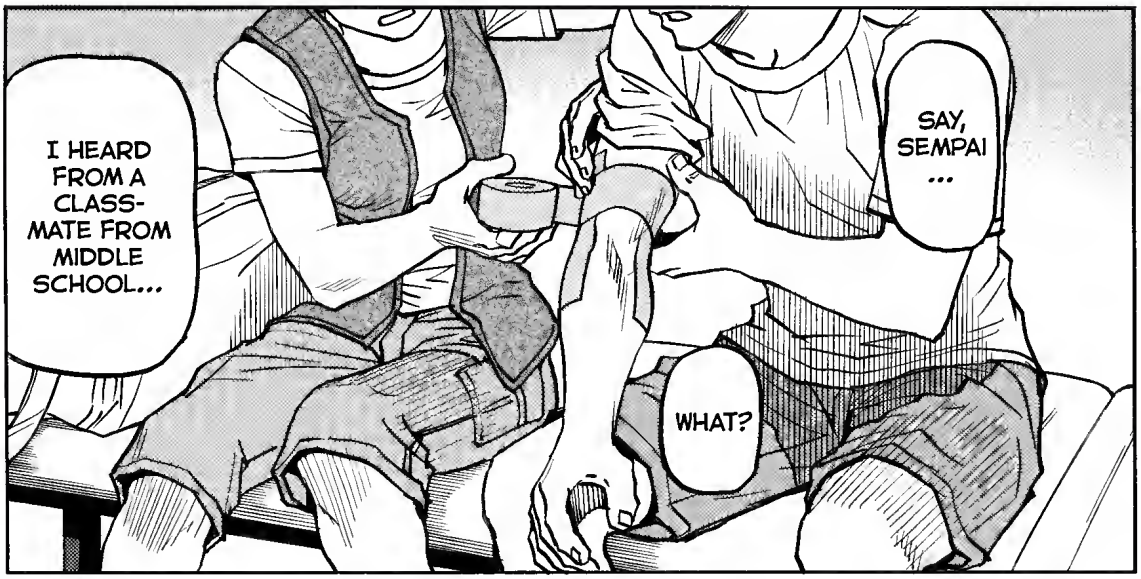
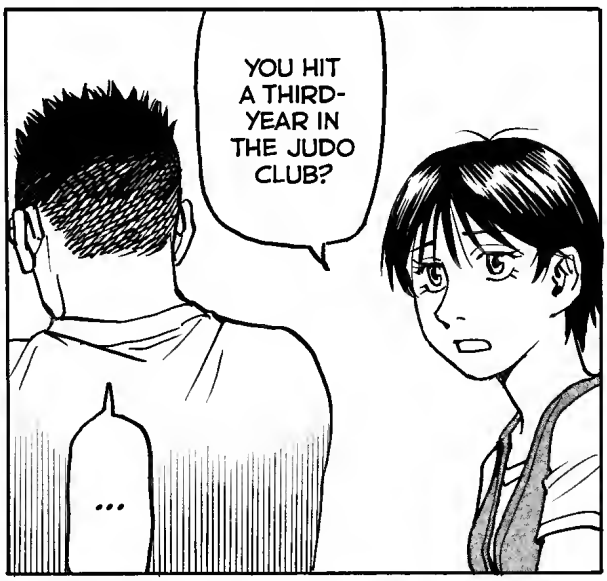


!
ズ
ZING
キ
CAN I DO THIS?
THE SWELLING AND PAIN HASN'T GOTTEN ANY WORSE.
NOW MY LEG'S HURTING FROM WHEN KARATE GUY KICKED ME IN ROUND ONE...
DAMN IT.
I BROUGHT YOU SOME ICE!
SEMPAI!
TWITCH

HUH?
WHICH STALL?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
OH, SORRY.
I WASN'T SURE WHICH STALL YOU WERE IN.
THIS IS THE MEN'S BATH-ROOM!
HRM?
EEK! A GIRL CAME IN!
C'MOOON.
I CAN'T MOVE LIKE THIS. GO AWAY!
I LOOKED AFTER MY BABY BROTHER, SO NO WORRIES!
I WIPED HIS BUTT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN ...
HEY...
HM?
ARE YOU EVEN AWARE THAT YOU'RE A GIRL?


I HEARD FROM A CLASS-MATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...
SAY, SEMPAI ...
WHAT?

OVER YOUR BROTH-ER...
MY BROTH-ER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!


YOU HIT A THIRD-YEAR IN THE JUDO CLUB?
...

TIME TO GET READY!
HEY, YUDAI!
BUT ...
FIGHTERS BREW

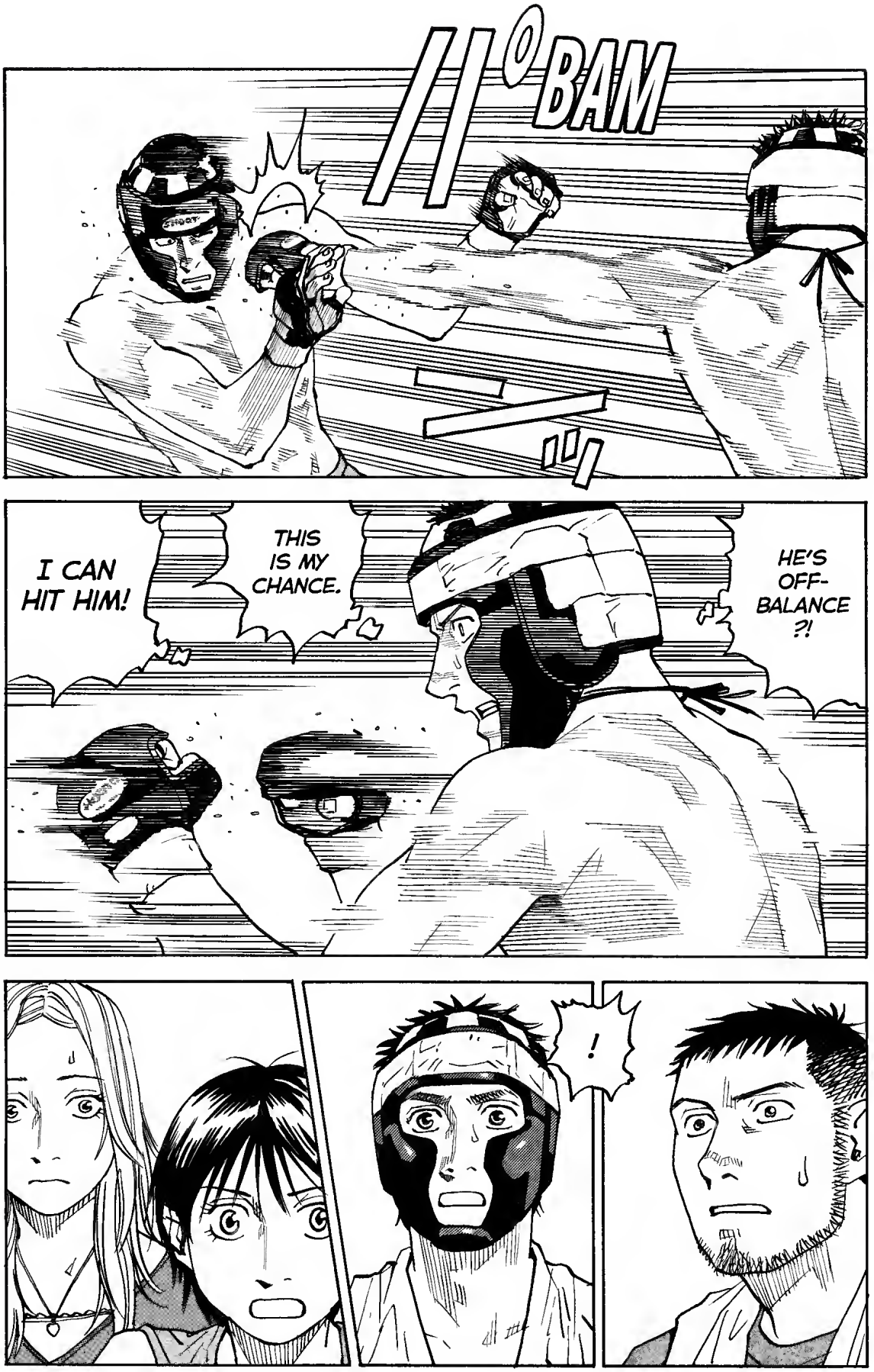
...
BAM
FSH
...IS THE GUY YOU LOST TO IN THE FRESHMAN TOURNEY, ISN'T HE?
YUDAI'S NEXT OPPONENT...
YEAH ...
HE WAS REALLY TOUGH TO FIGHT.
AND EVEN WHEN I BROKE HIS TAKEDOWNS, HE'D PUSH ME AROUND WITH POWER.
HE CAME AT ME THROWING HOOKS.
HIS CONDITIONING AND PRESSURE WERE CRAZY.

HE ENDED UP WINNING THAT TOURNAMENT.
YUDAI HAS TO FIGHT *HIM?*
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
FIGHTERS BREW
FIGHTERS BREW
YUDAI KITA-MURA!
HOW'S YOUR ELBOW?
NO PROB-LEM.
LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SECOND ROUND.
MATCH 36.

DING
AKIRA TACHI-BANA!
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM TEAM NELSON ...
BAP
FIGHT!

!
WHOOSH!!!
HIS SWING IS WIDE...
...BUT HIS HAND SPEED IS FAST!

FWOO
WHOOSH
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN AND GAUGE ...
I CAN'T BACK DOWN.
HE'S IN RANGE FOR A ONE-TWO!
!
FUMP
SKFF
SKFF

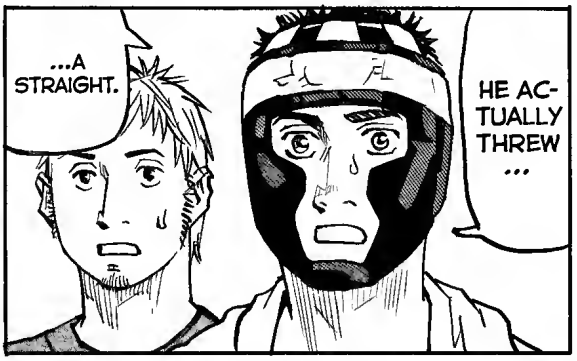

BAM
I CAN HIT HIM!
THIS IS MY CHANCE.
HE'S OFF-BALANCE ?!
!

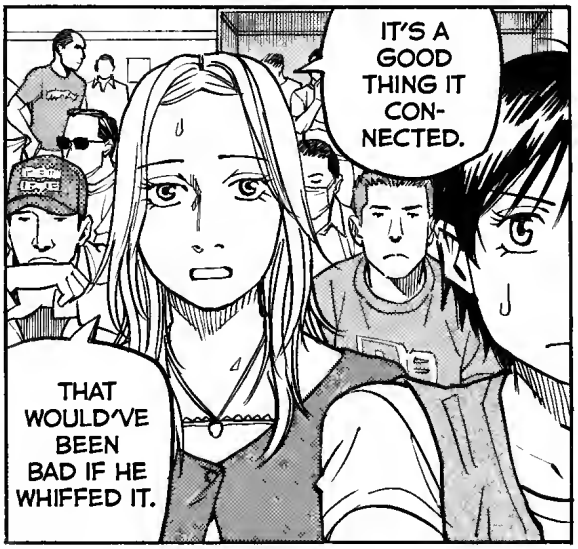
WHAM!!
SHOOTO
DOWN!

I'M GOOD.
NO PAIN ...

ONE!
TWO!

FOUR!

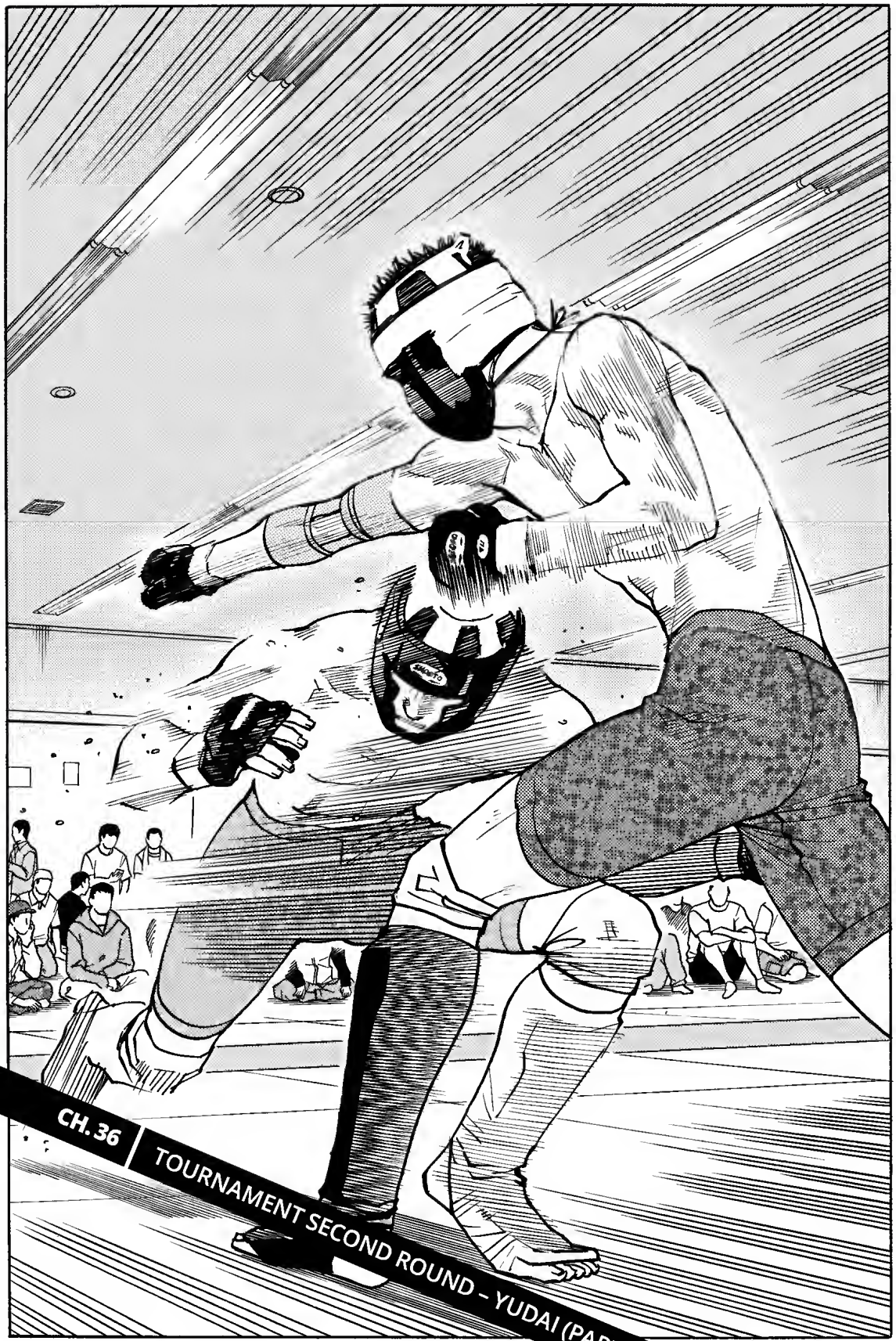

...A STRAIGHT.
HE ACTUALLY THREW ...


IT'S A GOOD THING IT CONNECTED.
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF HE WHIFFED IT.

I HAVE TO FINISH HIM NOW OR...
EITHER WAY, THIS IS MY CHANCE.
FIGHT!
I HIT HIM IN THE CHIN...
...BUT I GUESS I DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH WEIGHT INTO IT.
WHIF
OOP!
THERE!
HE BACKED DOWN AGAIN.
WHAP
THIS'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE.
AS LONG AS I LOOK OUT FOR HIS HOOKS AND TAKE-DOWNS...
SHOOTO

I'LL FINISH HIM NOW!
FSH
NO, YUDAI!
!

!
SHRT



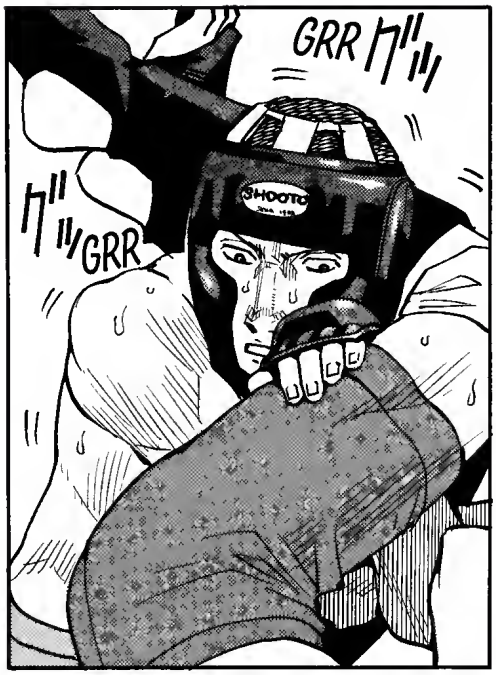
CH. 36 | TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND – YUDAI (PART TWO)

SNAP
キィッ
MY ELBOW ...!
HRGH!
FWIP

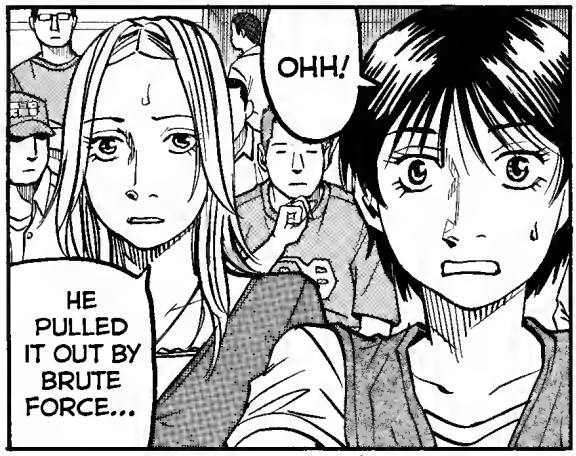
SKFF
HE'S GONNA TRY TO PUSH YOU DOWN!
BREAK HIS HOLD, YUDAI!
DASH

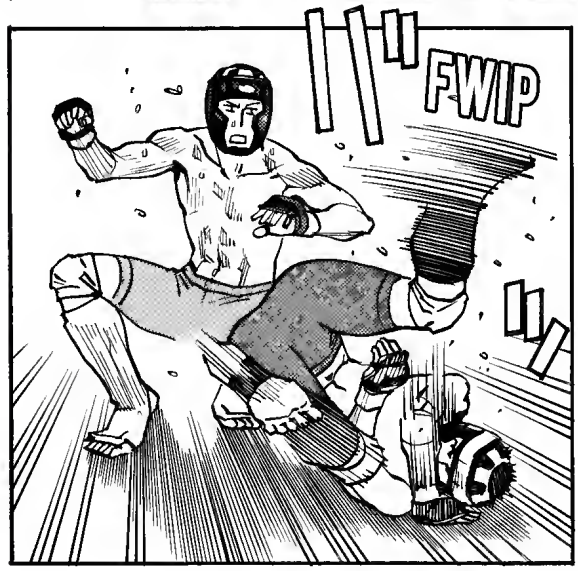
WHOA!
WHAT'S WITH THIS POWER ?!
SKFF
GRAB
TWIST

HEEEY!
BAM
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
PUT HIM ON HIS BACK, TACHIBANA!
I CAN'T TENSE UP!
I HAVE TO MOVE!
HE CRUSHED ME WITH POWER AND WRESTLING AFTER THAT.
YEAH ...
HE DID THAT TO YOU, TOO, MEGURU?
SQUEE


GRR
GRR
SHOOTO

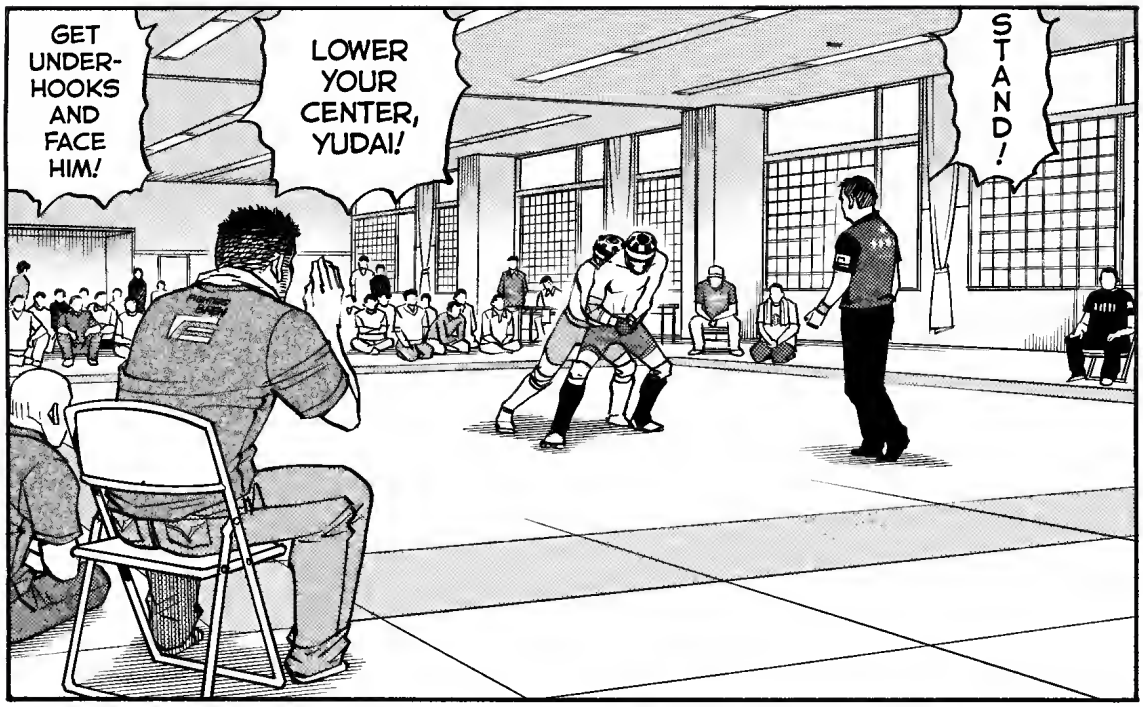
LATCH


OHH!
HE PULLED IT OUT BY BRUTE FORCE...

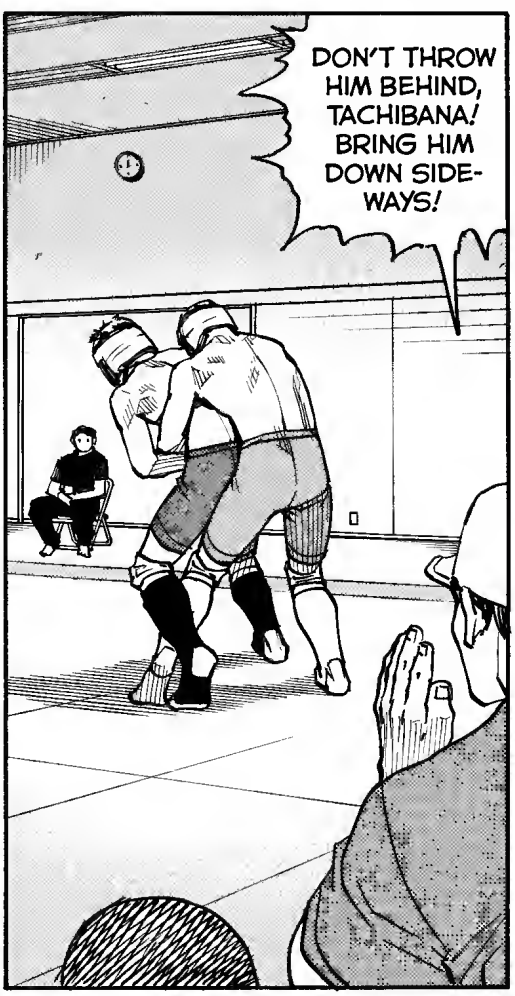

FWIP

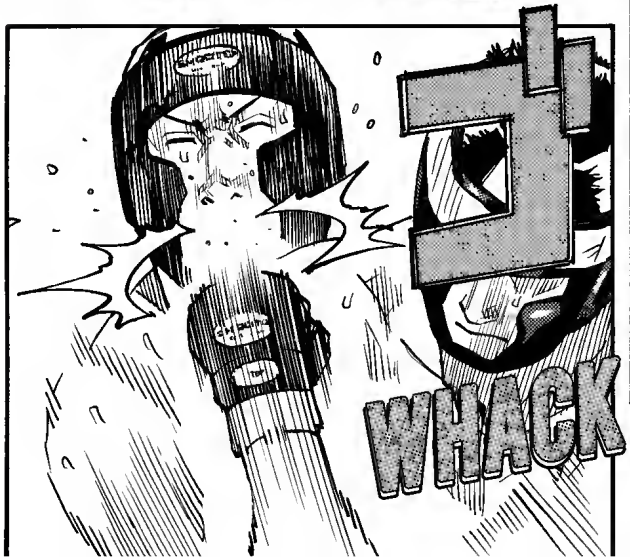
SHOOP

GRAB
ガッ
I'LL LET HIM TAKE MY BACK.
IN RETURN, I'LL GET ON MY FEET!
I do
FWIP


GET UNDER-HOOKS AND FACE HIM!
LOWER YOUR CENTER, YUDAI!
STAND!

!
FWOO


DON'T THROW HIM BEHIND, TACHIBANA! BRING HIM DOWN SIDE-WAYS!

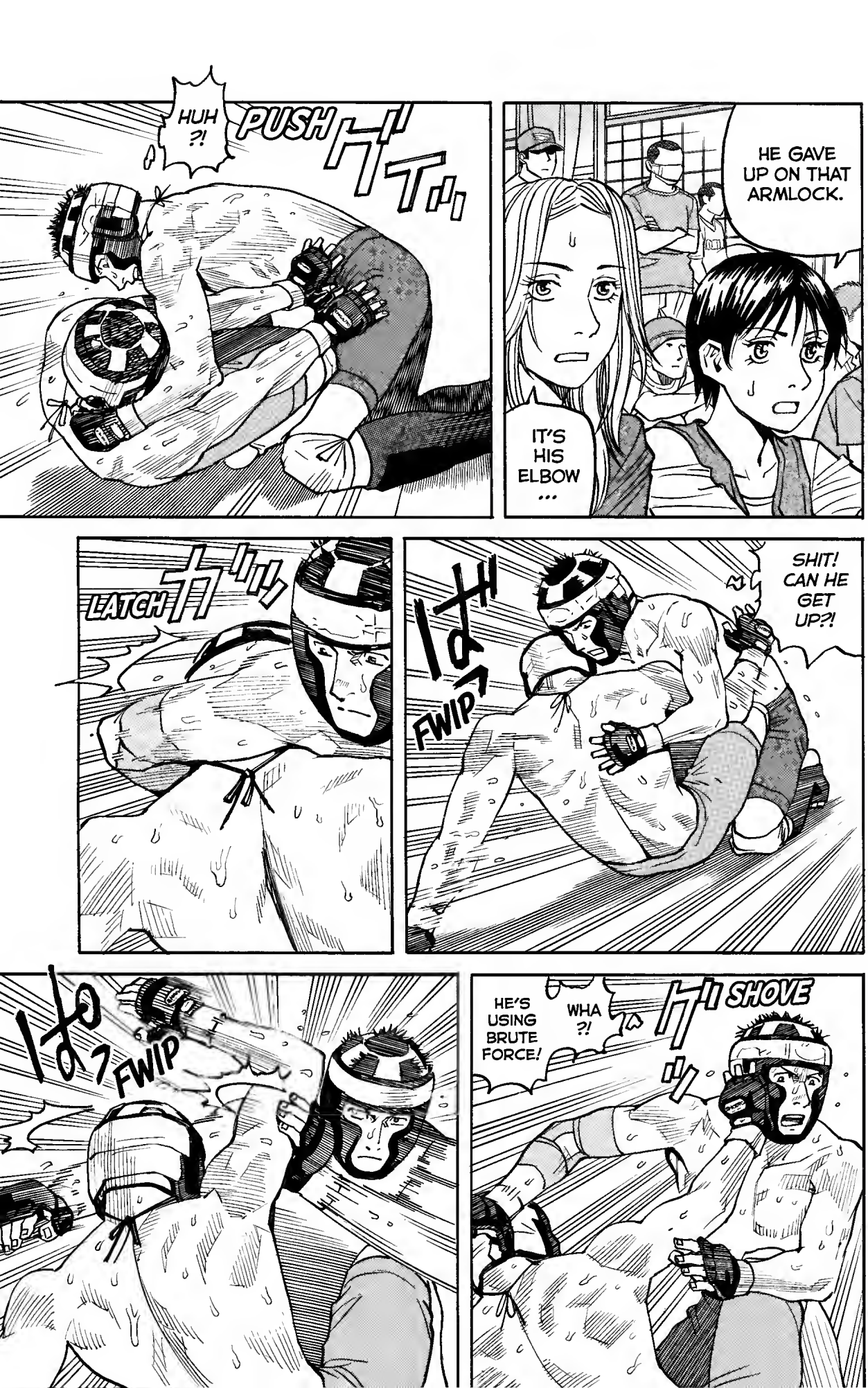

WHACK

TURN
WHACK
I CAN TURN AROUND!
NOW!
!
ZING
FWIP

KEEP IT UP!
DAMN IT!
SO WHAT IF MY ELBOW...
...
GOOD, YUDAI!
...HURTS A LITTLE!
A HIP SWEEP–
WATCH OUT, TACHI-BANA!

BOOM

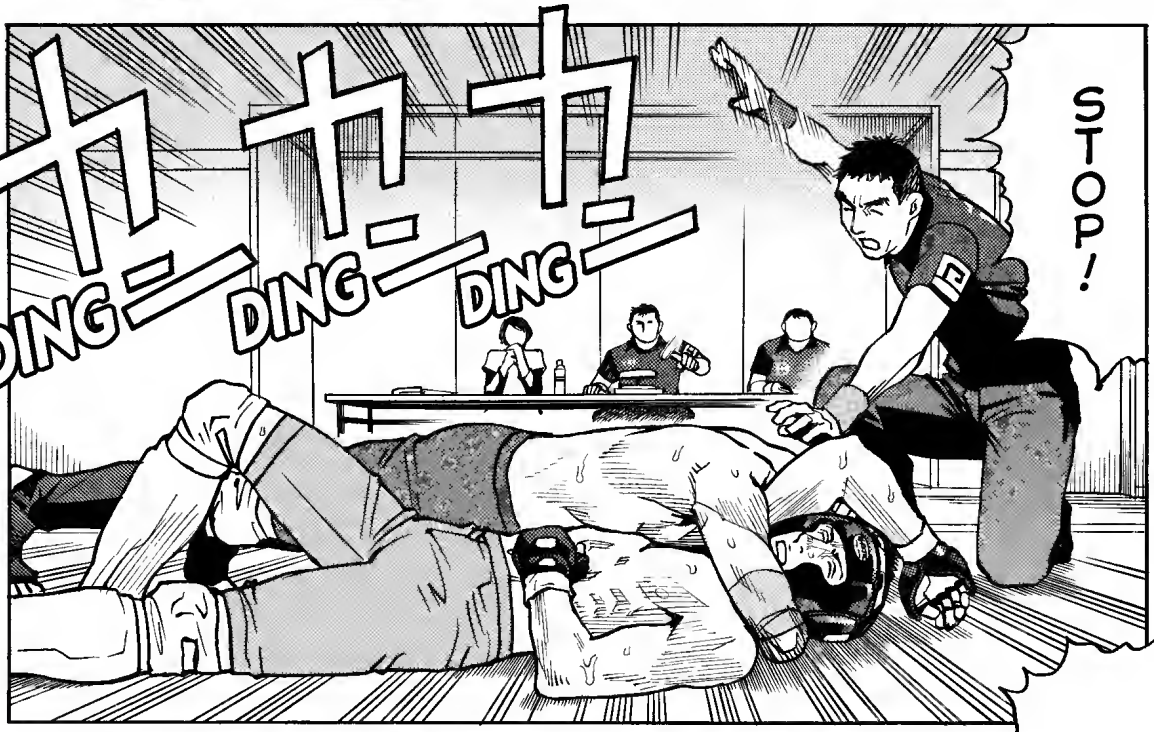
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
SIDE!
PIN!
KEEP HIM PINNED, YUDAI!
NICE!
ZING
GRAB
SQUEAK

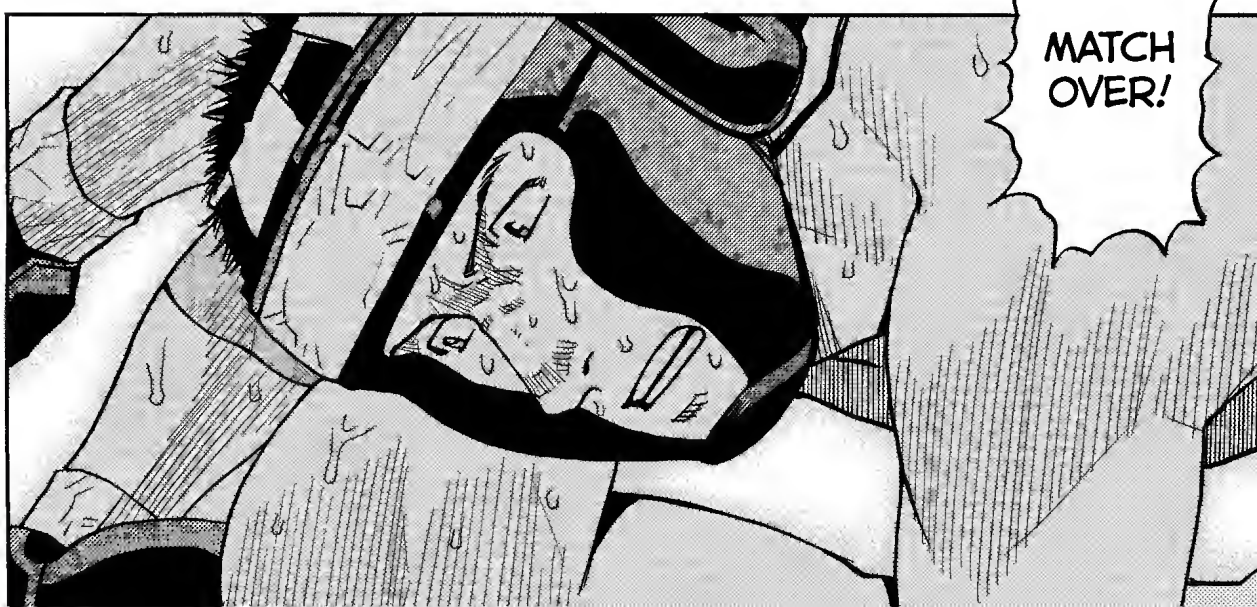

HUH ?!
PUSH
HE GAVE UP ON THAT ARMLOCK.
IT'S HIS ELBOW ...
LATCH
FWIP
SHIT! CAN HE GET UP?!
FWIP
HE'S USING BRUTE FORCE!
WHA ?!
SHOVE

FWIP
I'LL FINISH HIM NOW!
WHAT-EVER!
I CLINCHED WITH MY RIGHT!
TCH ...
HRRK
十!!

RESIST, TACHI-BANA!
CATCH!
PUSH HIS HEAD WITH YOUR ELBOW AND ROLL BACK!
AN ARM TRIAN-GLE!
HE'S GONNA CHOKE HIM OUT WITH HIS RIGHT?
...I BET HE'S IN A WORLD OF PAIN.
BUT ...
A CHOKE SHOULDN'T PUT THAT MUCH STRESS ON HIS ELBOW.
...
GRRR

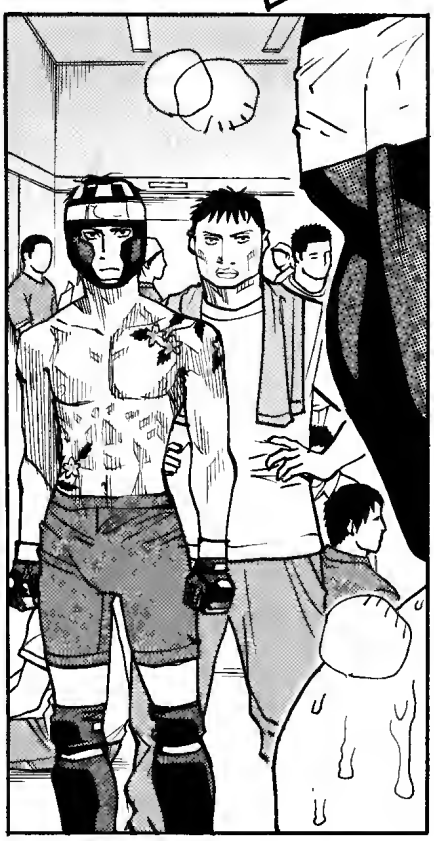
FLOP
!

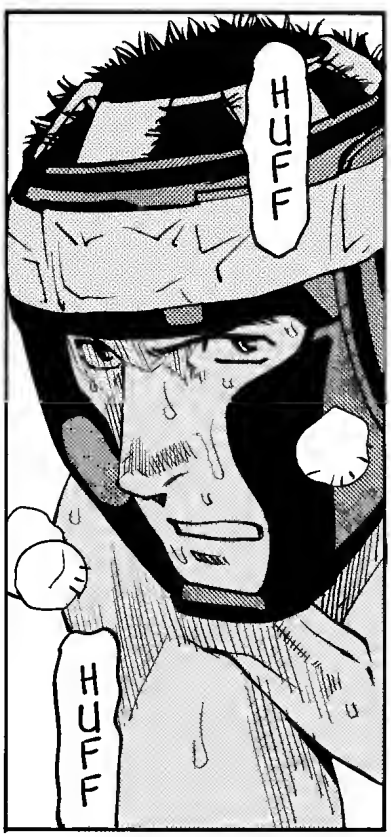

DING
DING
DING
STOP!


MATCH OVER!

POP
HUFF
HUFF
HE CHOKED HIM OUT...

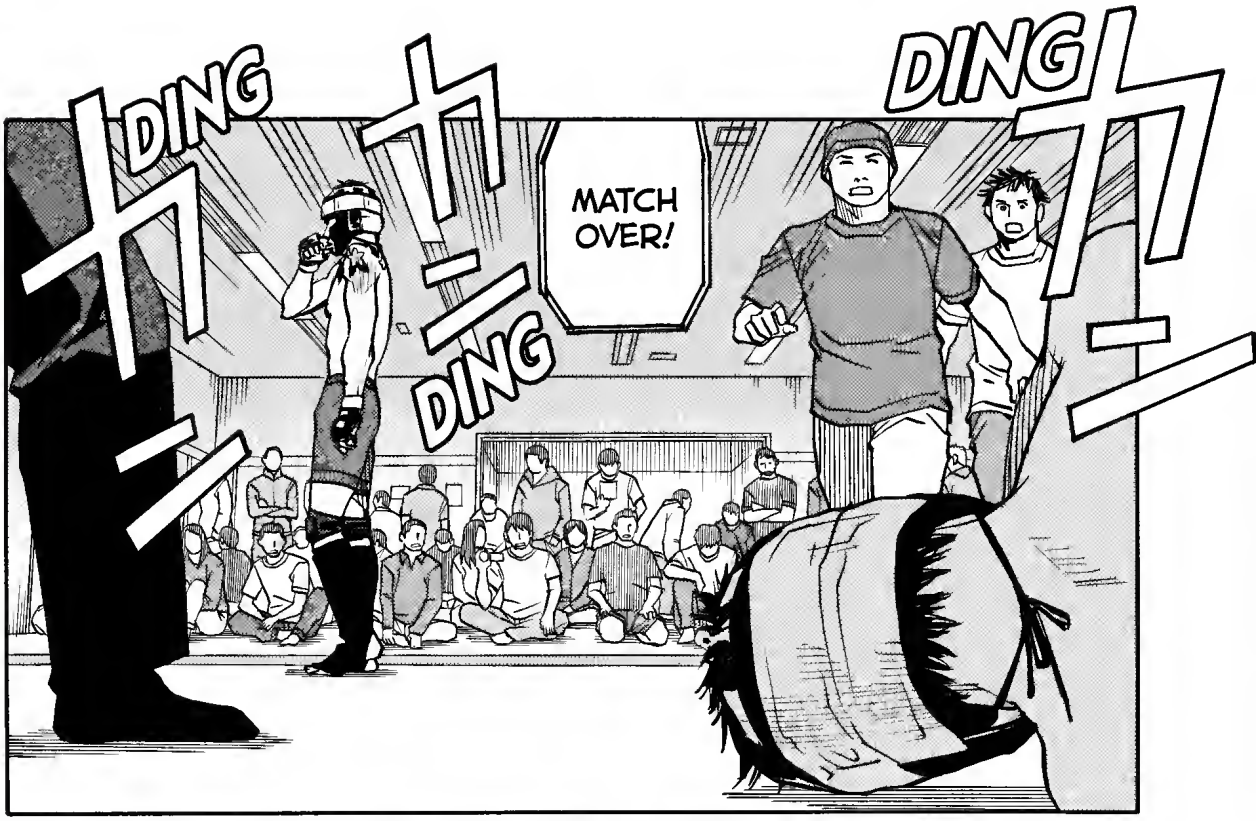
YEAH!
SLAP

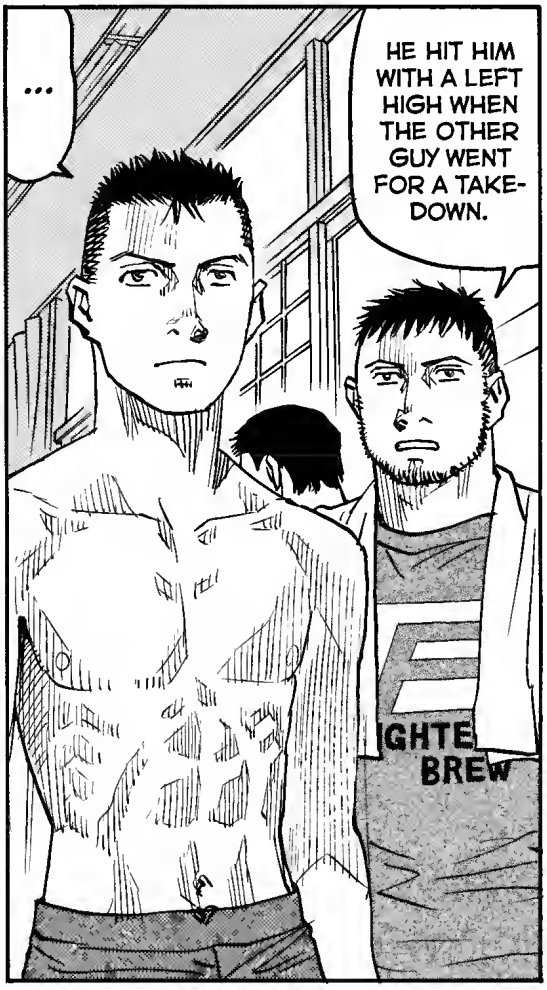


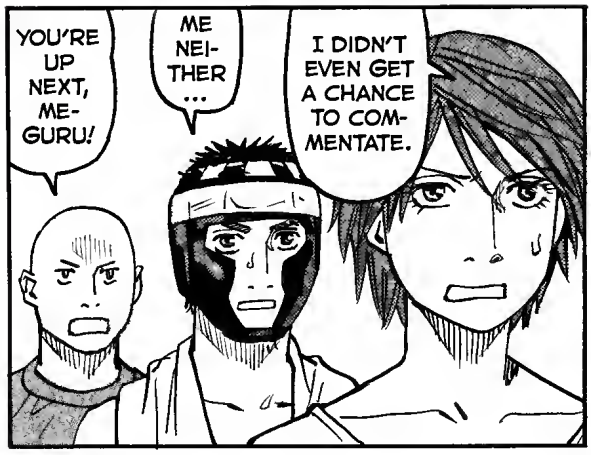

HUFF
HUFF

THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 47 SECONDS...
IF YOU WIN THIS NEXT MATCH ...
YOU'LL GO UP AGAINST HIM IN THE SEMI-FINALS.
...
GO HAVE THE DOC CHECK YOU OUT.
ALL RIGHT.
DON'T THROW YOUR MOUTH-PIECE, MAN. C'MON.
THROB
ズキン
ズキン
THROB
...
ANY PAIN IN YOUR ELBOW?
NO.
HOLD YOUR ARM LEVEL, PLEASE.
OKAY.
DOCTOR STATION
TAPING CHECK

ALL RIGHT.
MAKE SURE TO KEEP IT ICED.
IF IT REALLY STARTS TO HURT, YOU SHOULD FORFEIT THE NEXT–
...
WHACK!!

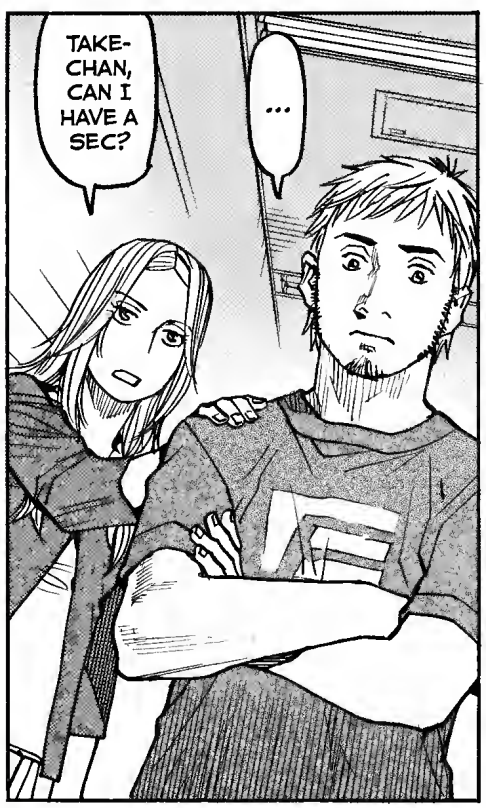

DING
DING
DING
MATCH OVER!

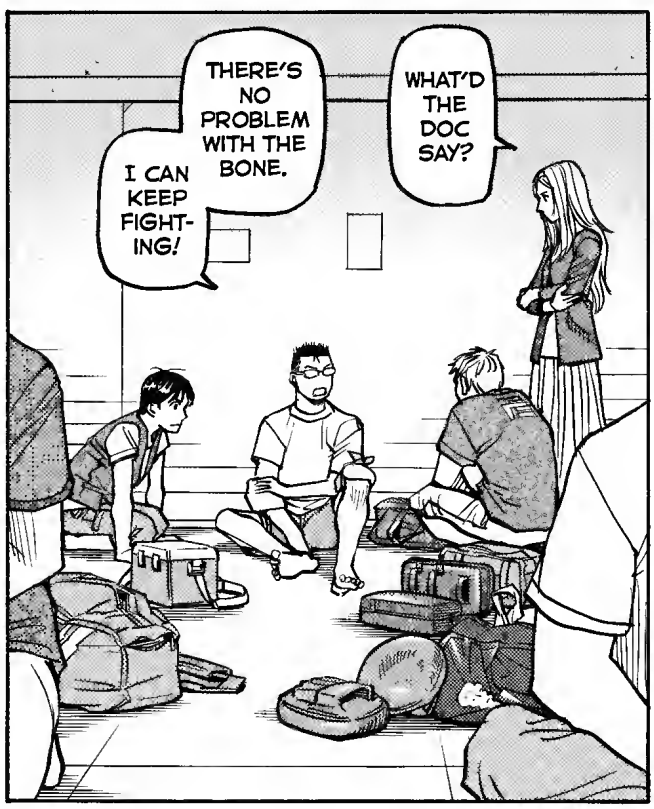

...
HE HIT HIM WITH A LEFT HIGH WHEN THE OTHER GUY WENT FOR A TAKE-DOWN.


YOU'RE UP NEXT, ME-GURU!
ME NEI-THER ...
I DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO COM-MENTATE.

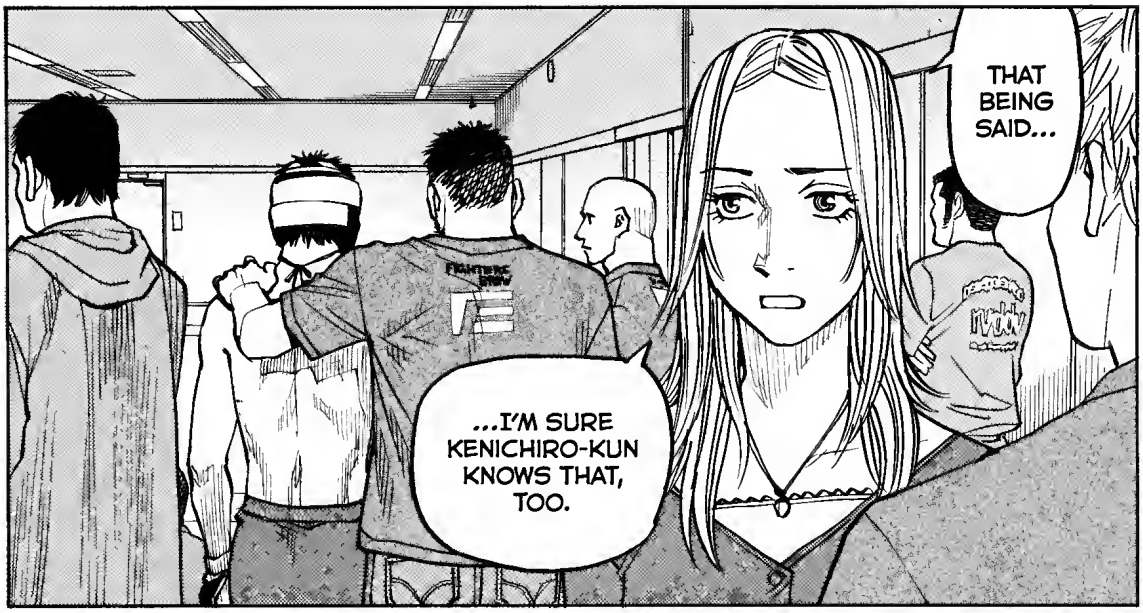
CH. 37 | TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART ONE)

PHEW...

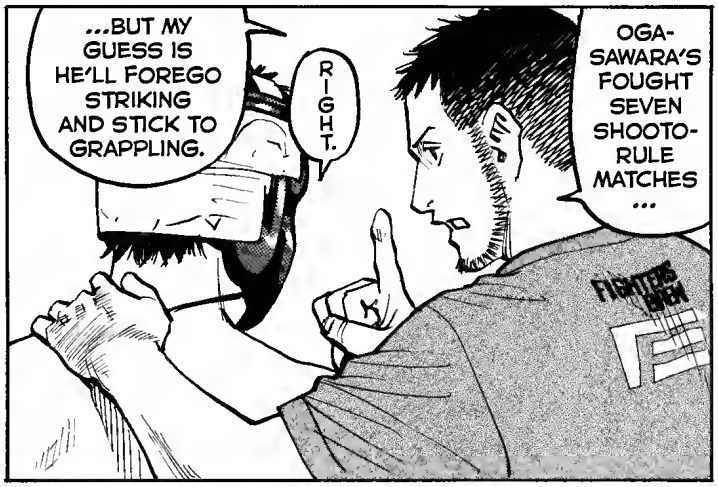

TAKE-CHAN, CAN I HAVE A SEC?
...

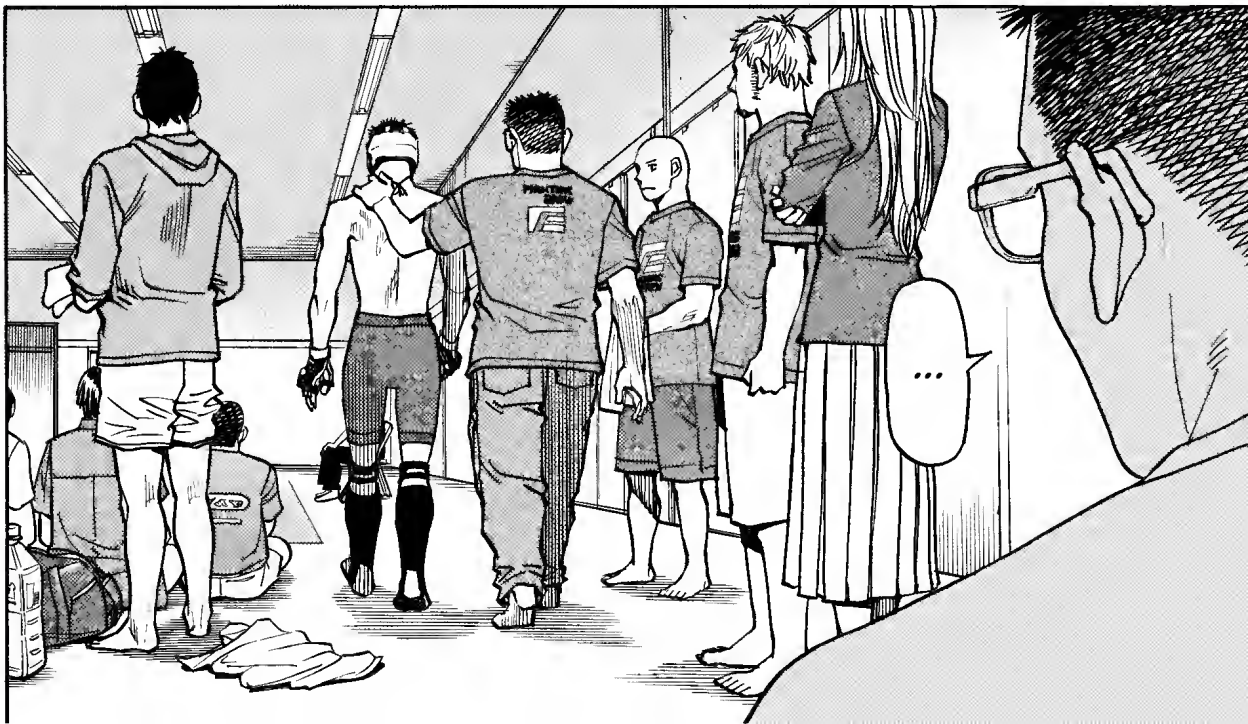

WHAT'D THE DOC SAY?
THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THE BONE.
I CAN KEEP FIGHT-ING!

TAKE-CHAN ...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE TOOK ANY DAMAGE TO THE HEAD.
BUT HE'LL BE IN THE FINALS IF HE WINS AGAIN.
TELL KENICHIRO-KUN TO ADVISE HIM TO FORFEIT THE NEXT MATCH.
PLUS, THERE'S THE DAMAGE HE TOOK FROM THAT KICK IN THE FIRST ROUND.
HE CAN'T THROW RIGHT STRAIGHTS ANYMORE.
THAT'S THE WORST MATCHUP FOR HIM RIGHT NOW!
HIS NEXT OPPONENT IS TAKASHI YAMABUKI.
...TAKING THOSE LEFT MID KICKS TO HIS ALREADY INJURED RIGHT ELBOW.
...THEN HE'LL SPEND FOUR LONG MINUTES ...
IF YUDAI DOESN'T MANAGE TO BRING HIM TO THE MAT...


THAT BEING SAID...
...I'M SURE KENICHIRO-KUN KNOWS THAT, TOO.

チラ
GLANCE


OGA-SAWARA'S FOUGHT SEVEN SHOOTO-RULE MATCHES ...
RIGHT.
...BUT MY GUESS IS HE'LL FOREGO STRIKING AND STICK TO GRAPPLING.


...

MATCH 38,
LIGHT-WEIGHT DIVISION, SECOND ROUND!
AI-KAWA.
YEAH ?
...TELL ME-GURU ...
AFTER THE MATCH IS OVER ...

...NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME, WILL YOU?
REFEREE
MEGURU! KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING THIS TIME!
DON'T LET HIM TAKE IT TO THE GROUND!
RIGHT!
...
TELL HIM YOUR-SELF.
THAT'S ALL?
TCH...

SHE'S THREAT-ENING ME?!
WELL ?!
YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T THROW ANY, RIGHT?!
WHAT THE HELL, MAN?!

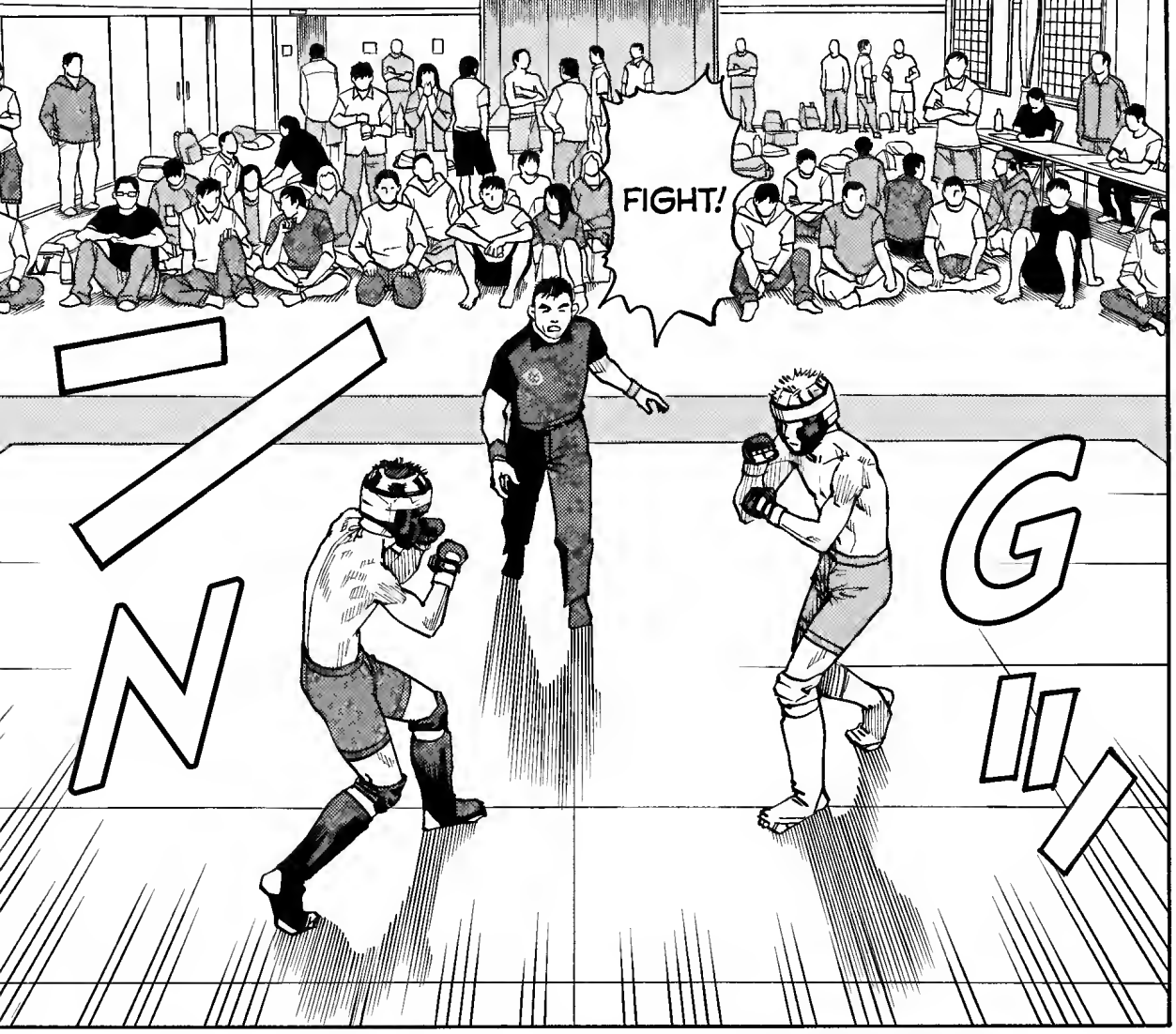
LEFT MID!
ME-GURU!

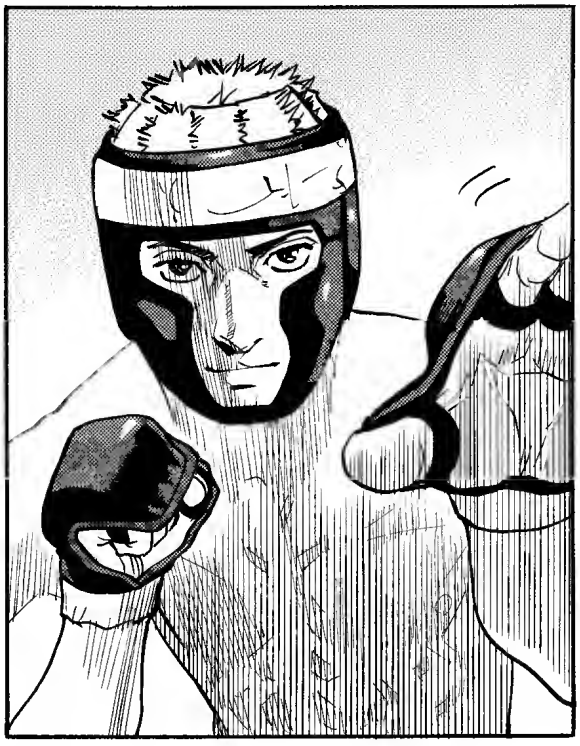
POMF

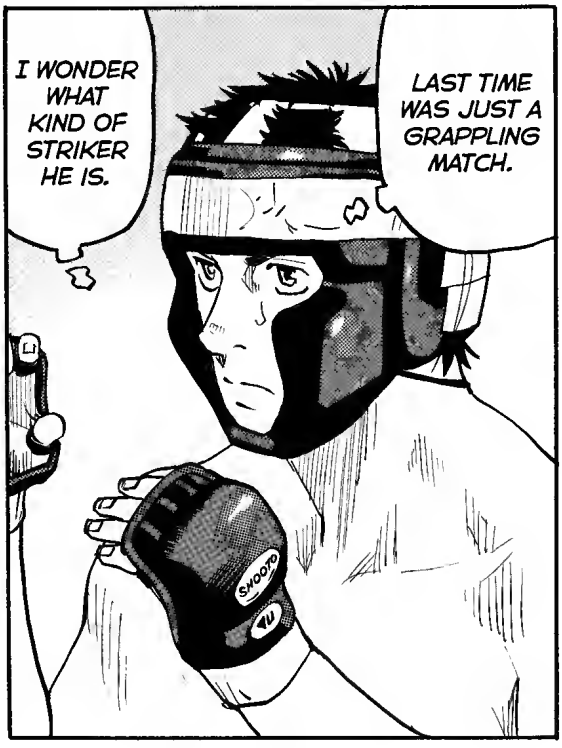
KIYO-SHI!
DON'T GO LOSING TO THE SAME OPPONENT TWICE NOW, Y'HEAR?
I KNOW!

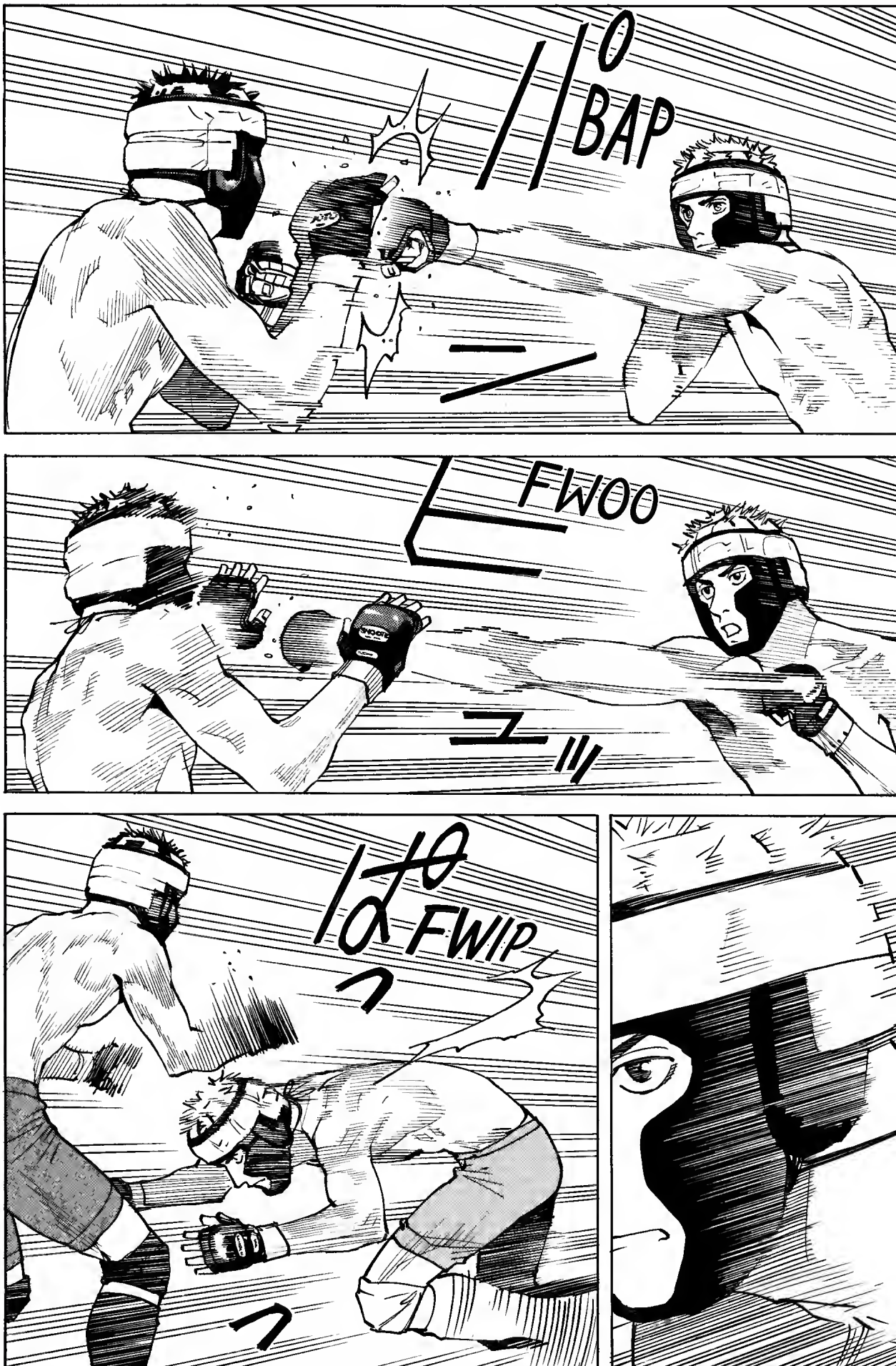
I DON'T CARE IF STRIKING'S ALLOWED.
WHATEVER THE RULES, I'LL END THE MATCH WITH JIU-JITSU.

WINNING WITH A SUB-MISSION...
...IS WHAT JIU-JITSU IS ALL ABOUT!


FIGHT!
N
G
I




I WONDER WHAT KIND OF STRIKER HE IS.
LAST TIME WAS JUST A GRAPPLING MATCH.
SHOOTO
KU


BAP
FWOO
FWIP

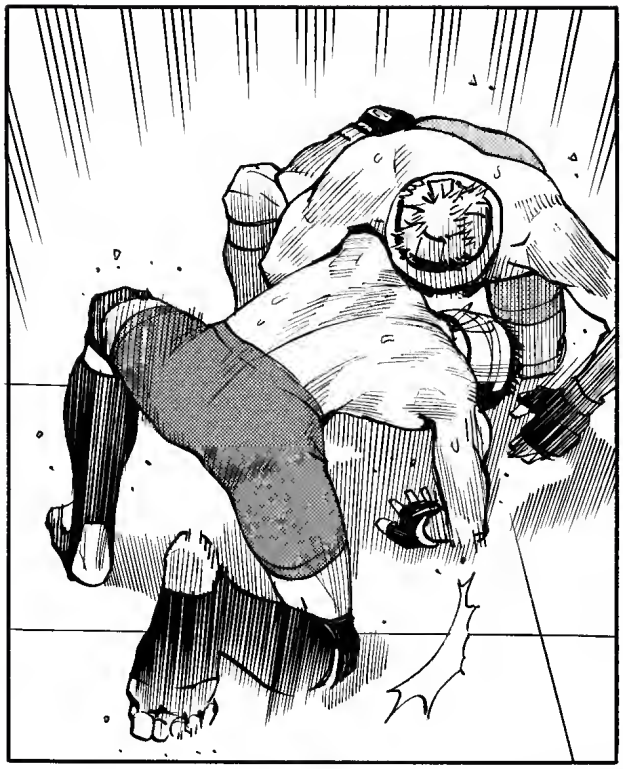
THAT'S BY THE BOOK!
A ONE-TWO INTO A TAKE-DOWN?!
I CAN BREAK IT!
BUT HIS TAKEDOWN ISN'T THAT FAST!
SKFF
!

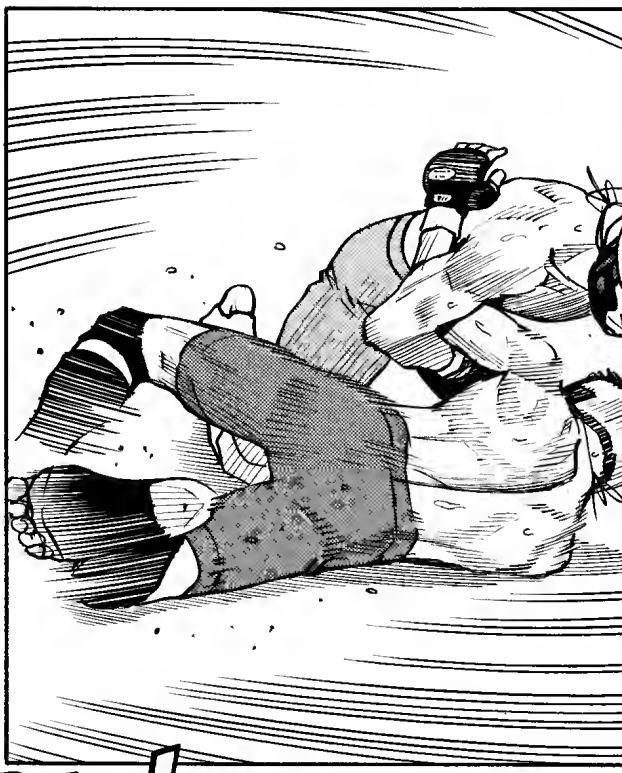
WRAP
TOO SLOW !
KEEP YOUR LEGS APART!
HE DOVE ?!
FWIP
BAM

ピタッ
FREEZE
スッ
SWIF
...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET ON TOP, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
HIS TAKE-DOWNS AREN'T EXACTLY THE GREAT-EST...
AND THAT WAS A DOUBLE LEG TAKE-DOWN...
HIS WRES-TLING'S FAST!
GOOD WORK, KIYOSHI! NOW TAKE IT SLOW!
PIN!
TOP!
SIDE!

...ME-GURU-KUN...
SORRY ABOUT THIS...
...I WON'T LET YOU GET BACK ON YOUR FEET.
...BUT UNTIL I GET A SUBMISSION...

SHOOP
I'VE BEATEN HIM ONCE BEFORE!
STAY CALM!
FWIP



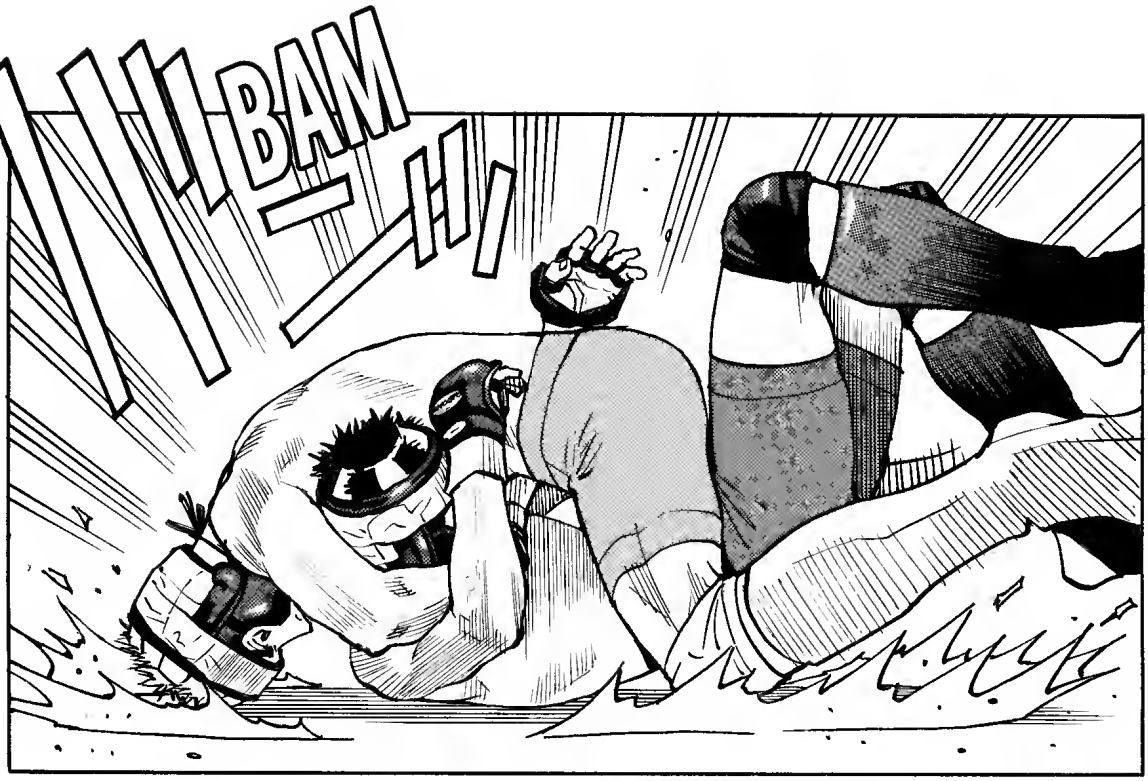


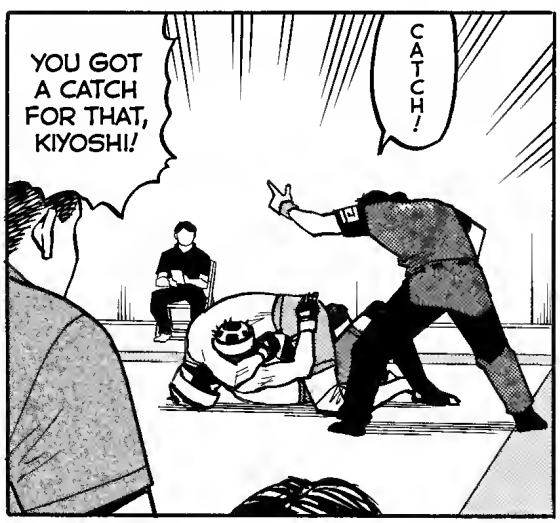
WRAP
ナ!!
!!!

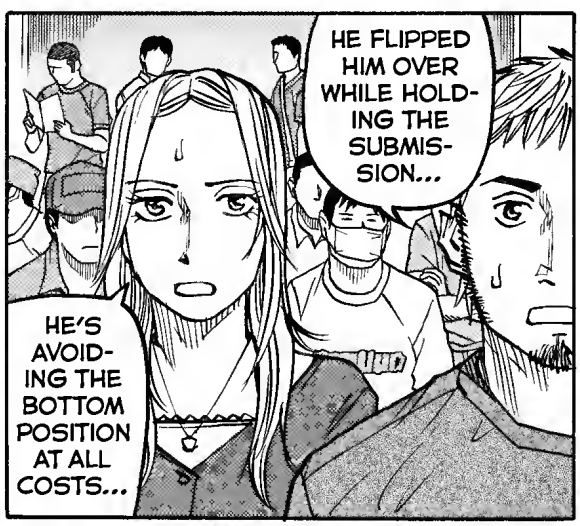
ナ!!
LATCH

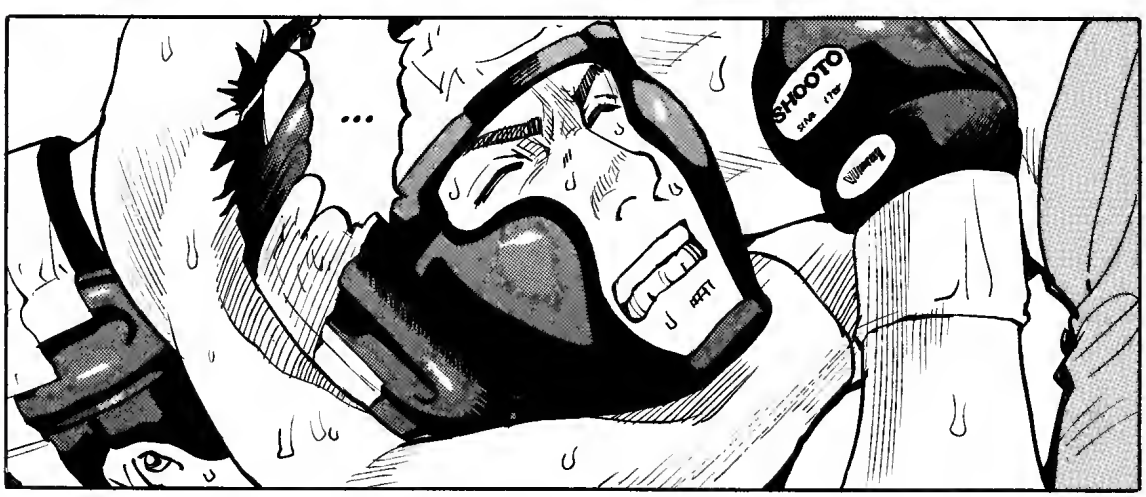
!

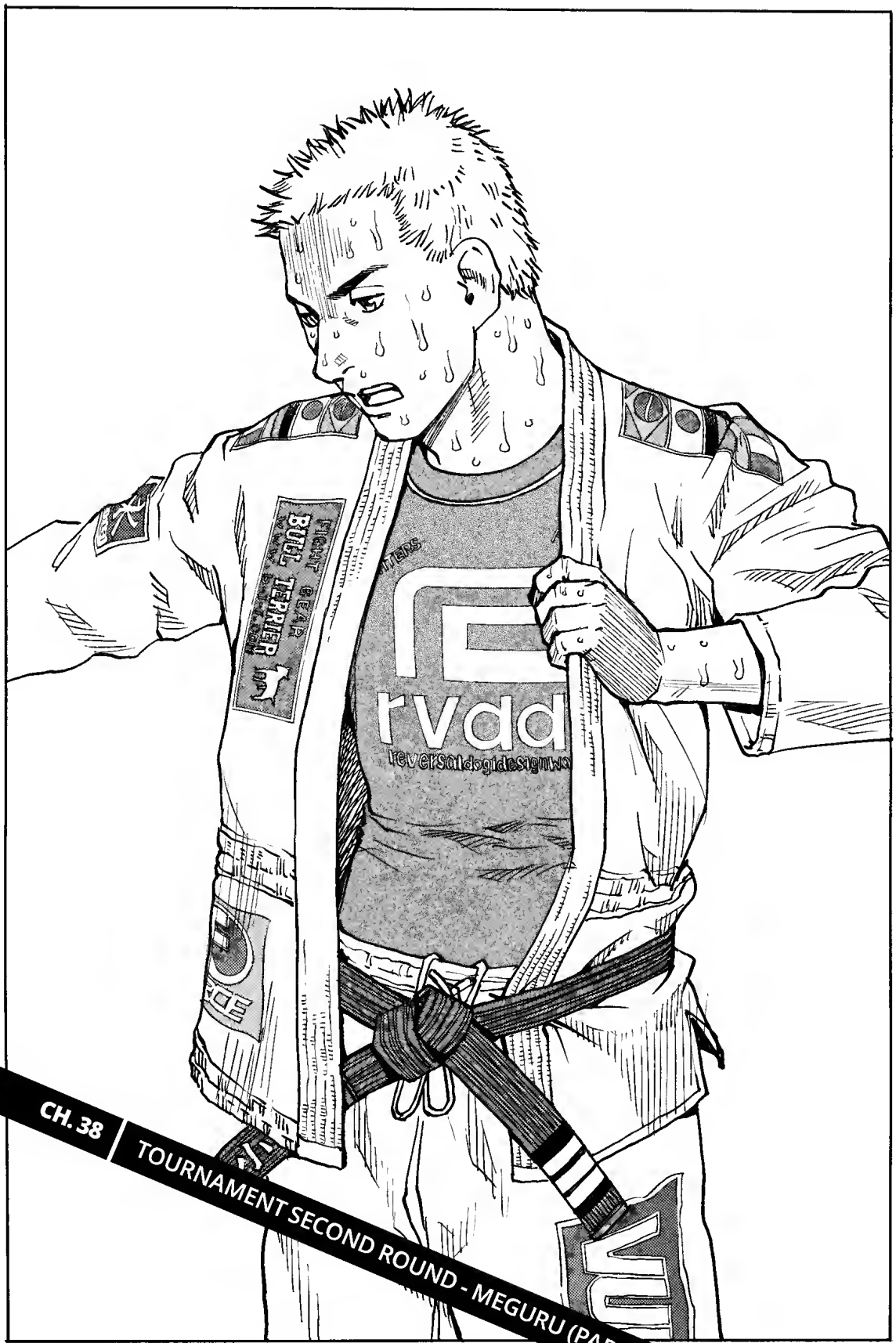
A GUIL-
LOTINE
CHOKE?!
FWIP


BAM!!!

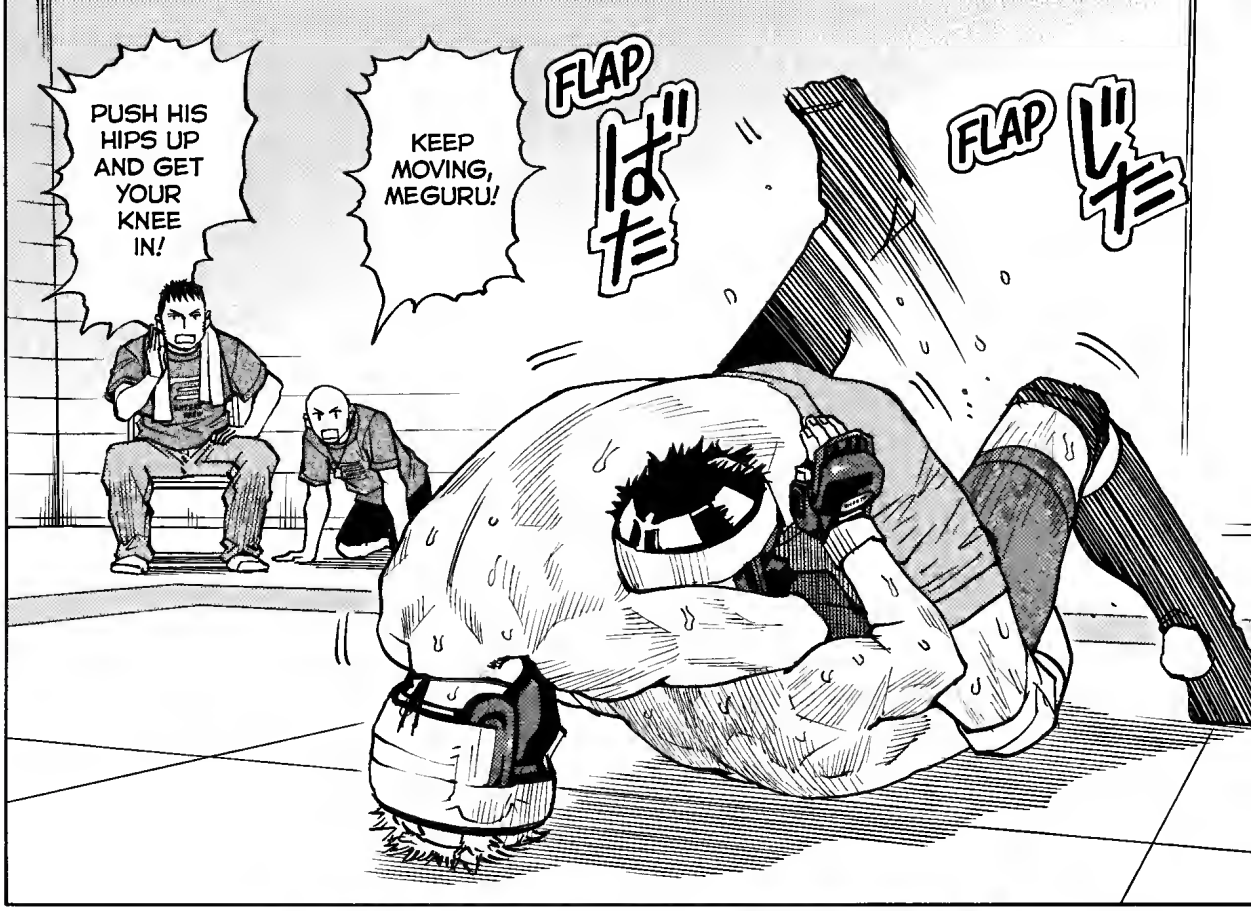

YOU GOT A CATCH FOR THAT, KIYOSHI!
CATCH!

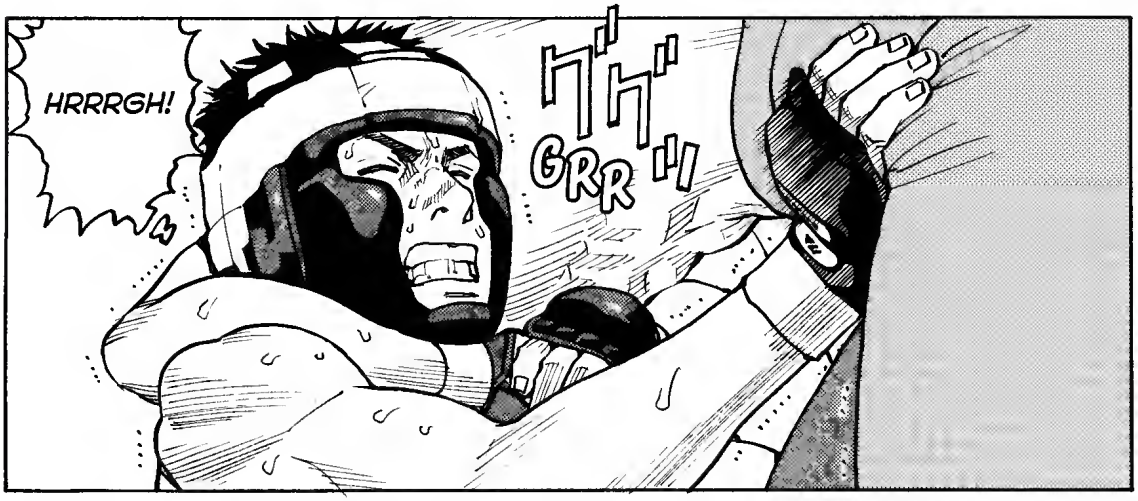

HE FLIPPED HIM OVER WHILE HOLDING THE SUBMISSION...
HE'S AVOIDING THE BOTTOM POSITION AT ALL COSTS...

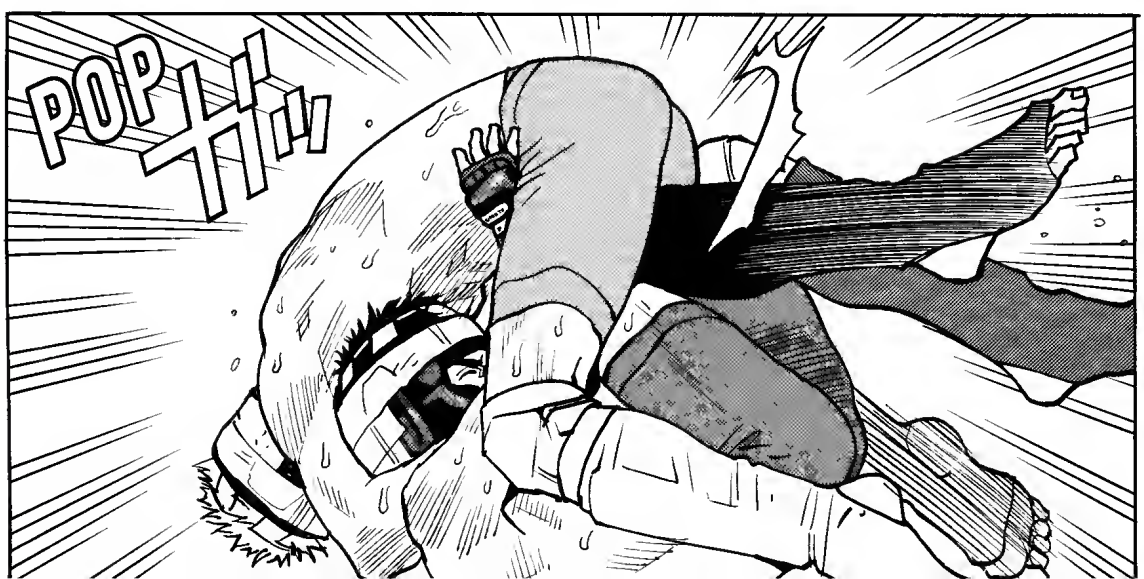

...
SHOOTO



CH. 38 | TOURNAMENT SECOND ROUND - MEGURU (PART TWO)


PUSH HIS HIPS UP AND GET YOUR KNEE IN!
KEEP MOVING, MEGURU!
FLAP
ばた
FLAP
ばた


HRRRGH!
GRR
ぐぐ


POP
ガ

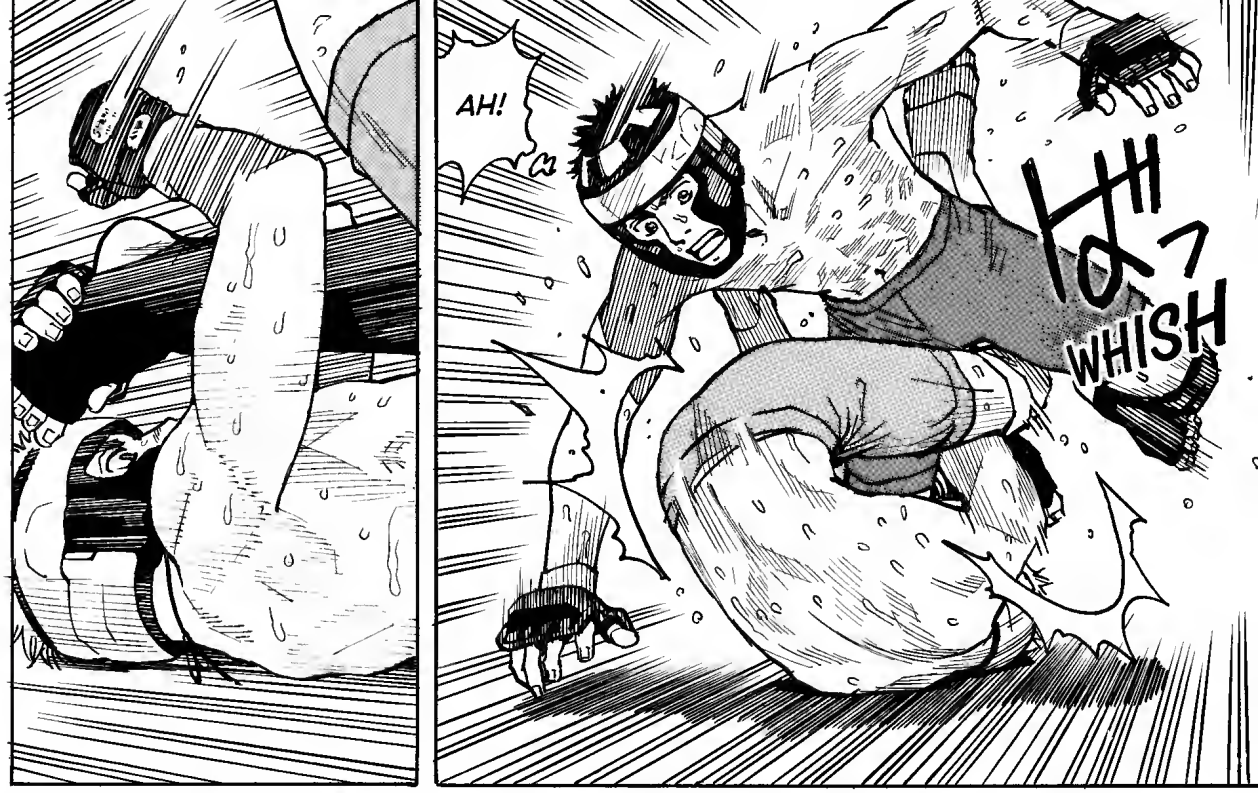
FWIP
THAT'S IT! HE CAN'T SUBMIT YOU IF YOU CREATE SPACE!
TCH!
WHOA!
HE PULLED OUT!
HE CAN AFFORD DO THAT BECAUSE HE HAS THE TOP POSITION.
...TO CONSERVE ENERGY.
NO. IT'S MORE LIKE HE LET ME-GURU-KUN GO ON PURPOSE ...

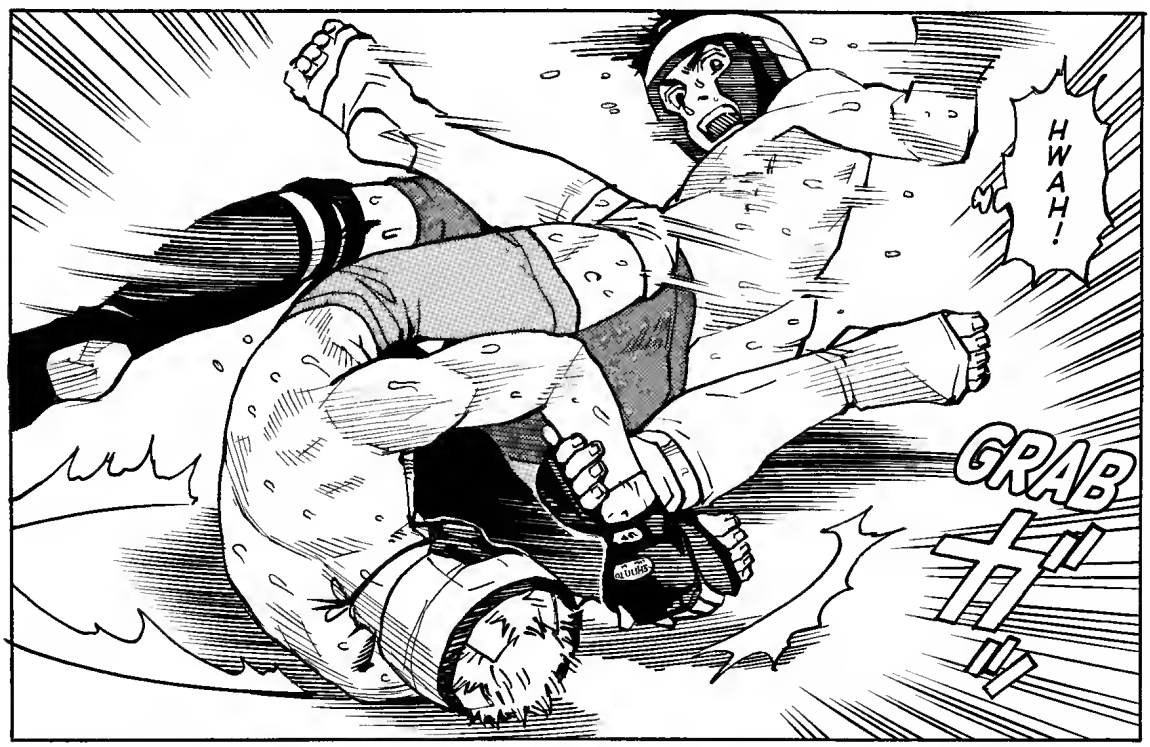
キュッ!!
SQUEAK
I HAVE TO GET TO HALF GUARD ...
I CAN'T STAY ON MY BACK.
HUH ?
THAT WAS EASY ...
GRAB
THIS IS MY CHANCE!
WHAT? HIS ARM...

AN ARM DRAG?!
GRAB
!!!

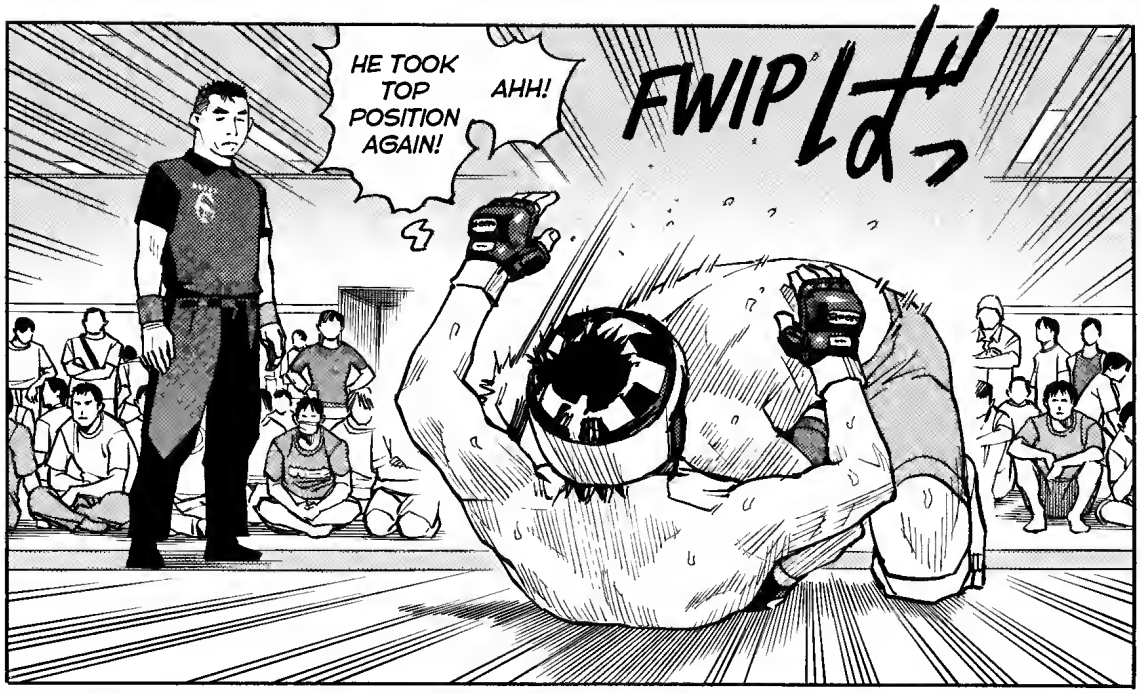
!
THMP
FWISH
FWIP
GAH! HE DROPPED ME!

BAP
SWIF
TWIST
...TO TAKE HIS BACK!
AGAIN!
FWIP
THIS TIME I'LL USE A SWITCH ...
GRAB!


AH!
WHISH

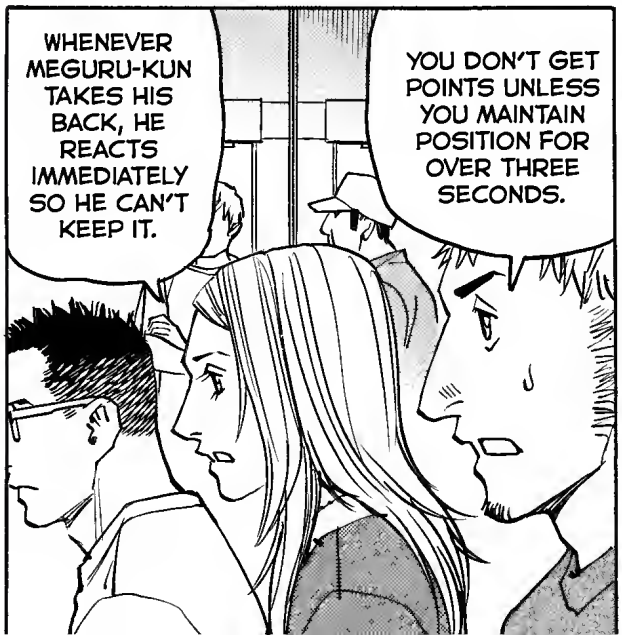

HWAH!
GRAB

A LEG LOCK ?!
SHUDDER
IS HE GONNA BREAK MY ANKLE?!

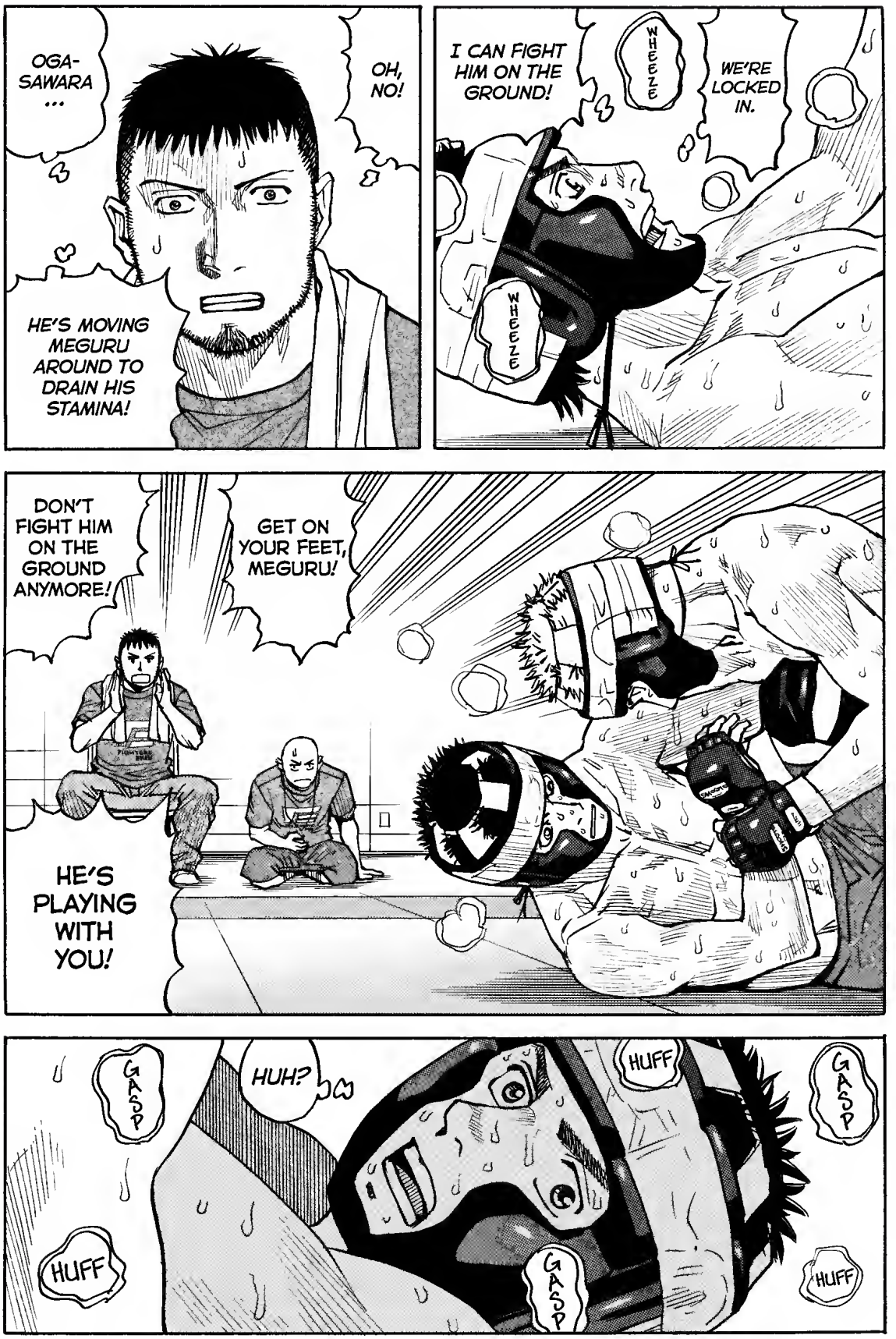

FWIP
HE TOOK TOP POSITION AGAIN!
AHH!

THE ONLY ONE SCORING POINTS IS OGASAWARA.
BUT ...

TOP!
HALF!
PIN!


WHENEVER MEGURU-KUN TAKES HIS BACK, HE REACTS IMMEDIATELY SO HE CAN'T KEEP IT.
YOU DON'T GET POINTS UNLESS YOU MAINTAIN POSITION FOR OVER THREE SECONDS.

HE'S SWINGING WITH WRES-TLING!
WHOA!
HE FEINT-ED WITH A LEG LOCK TO GET BACK ON TOP!


OGA-SAWARA ...
HE'S MOVING MEGURU AROUND TO DRAIN HIS STAMINA!
OH, NO!
I CAN FIGHT HIM ON THE GROUND!
WHEEZE
WE'RE LOCKED IN.
WHEEZE
DON'T FIGHT HIM ON THE GROUND ANYMORE!
GET ON YOUR FEET, MEGURU!
HE'S PLAYING WITH YOU!
GASP
HUH?
HUFF
HUFF
GASP
GASP
HUFF

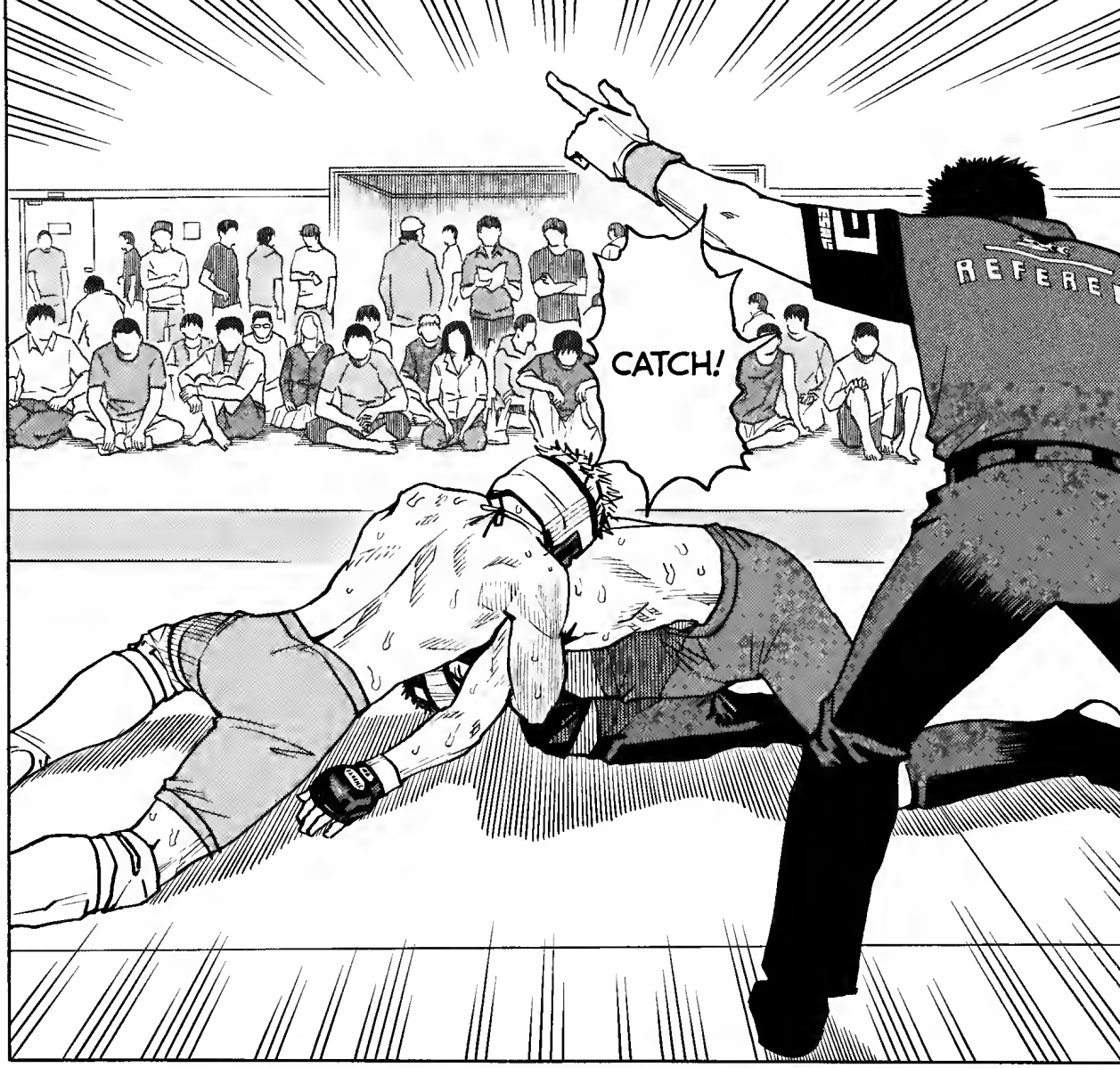
BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW,
ME-GURU-KUN!
YOU FINALLY CLUED IN.
FWIP
I HAVE UNDER-HOOKS!
SHOOTO
IF I DIVE UNDER AND TRIP HIM...
ニヤリ
ユルッ
SLIP

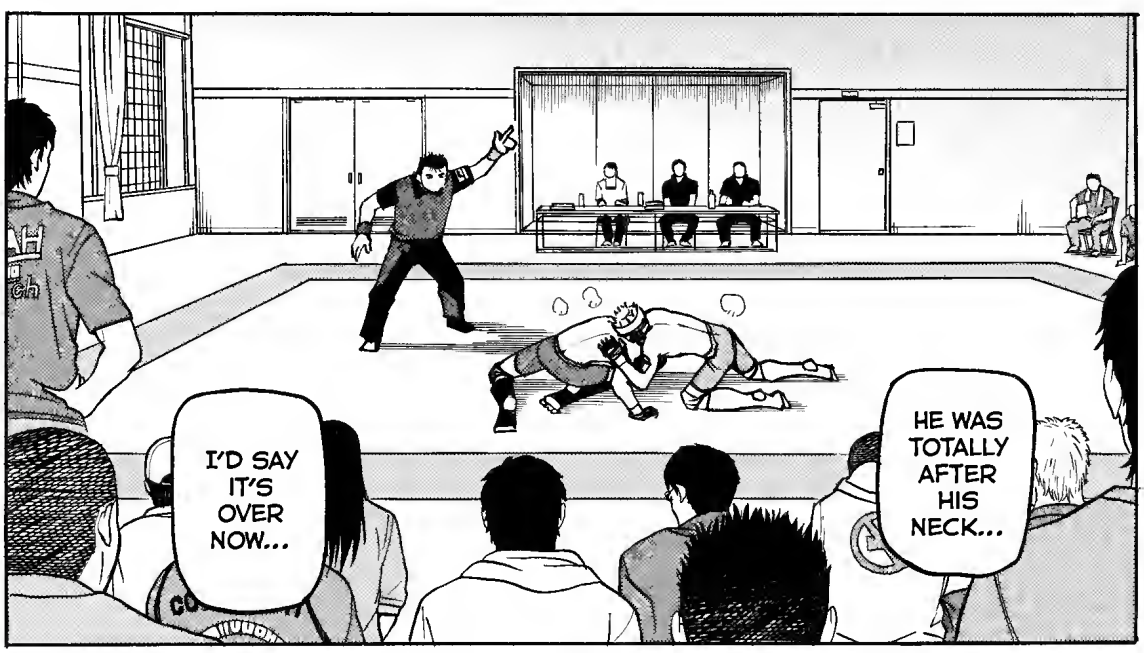
LATCH
ガッ

AN ANA-
CONDA
CHOKE!

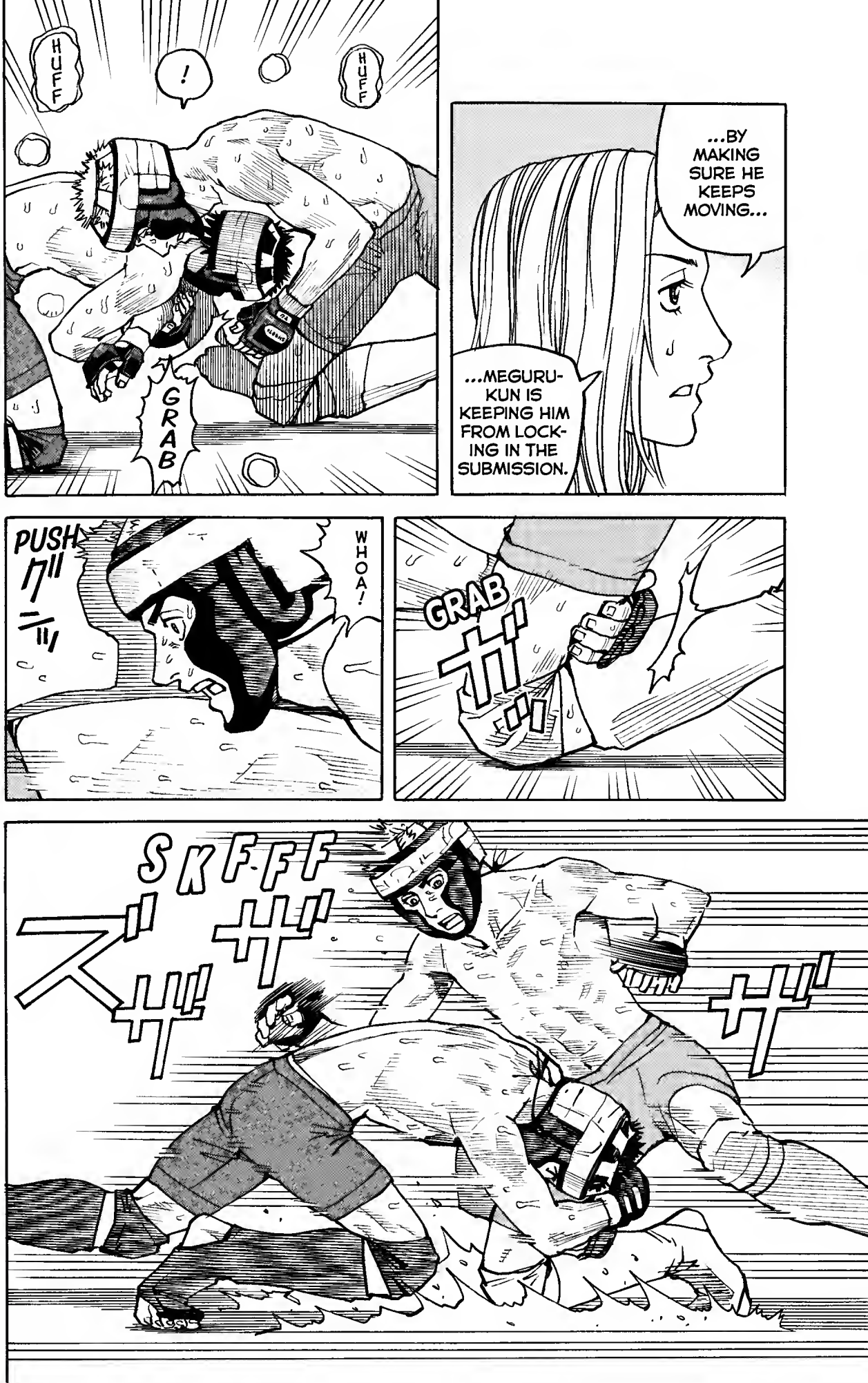
!
ギ GRR

DON'T
ROLL ON
YOUR SIDE,
MEGURU!
FACE DOWN
AND GET ON
YOUR KNEES!

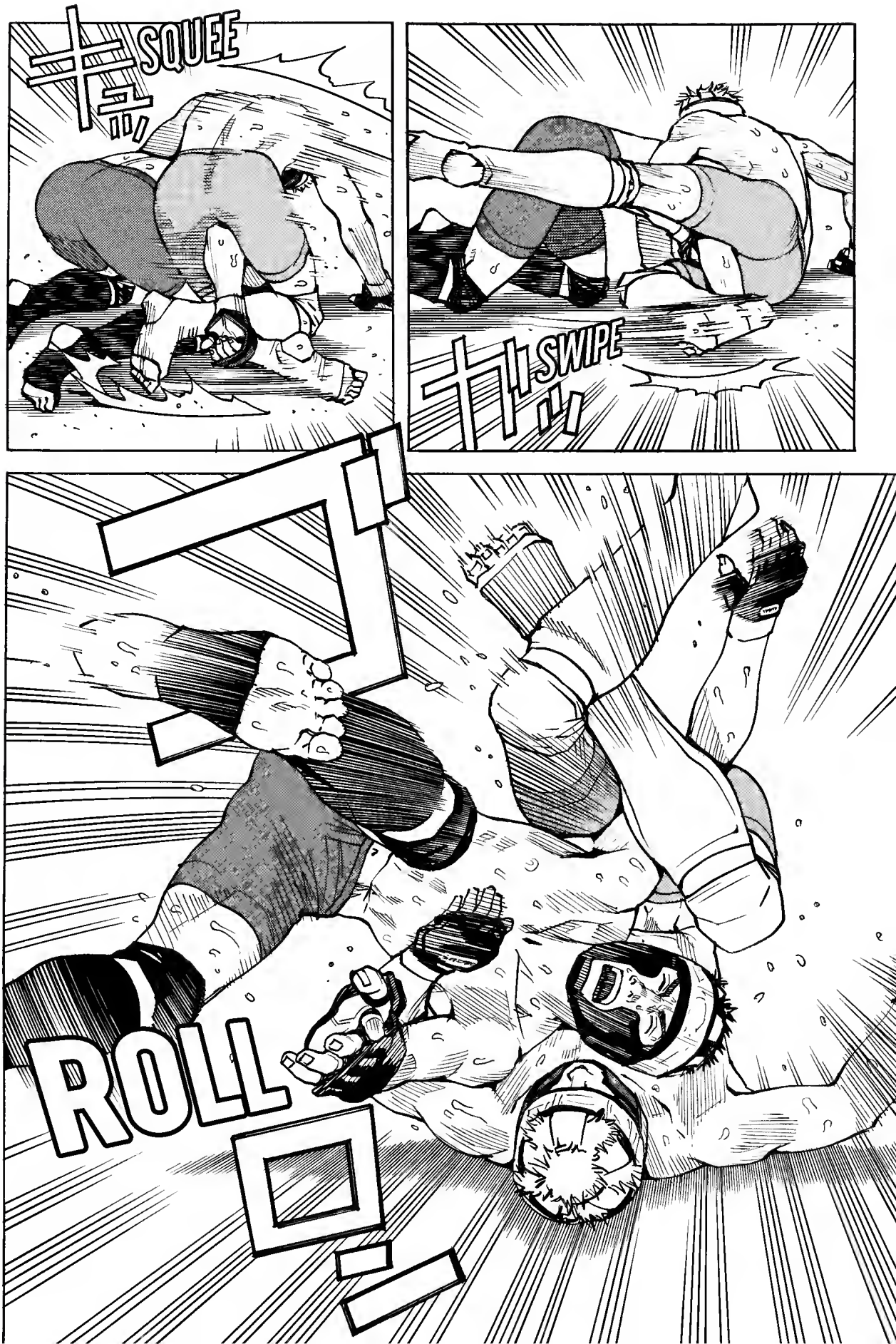

CATCH!
REFERE

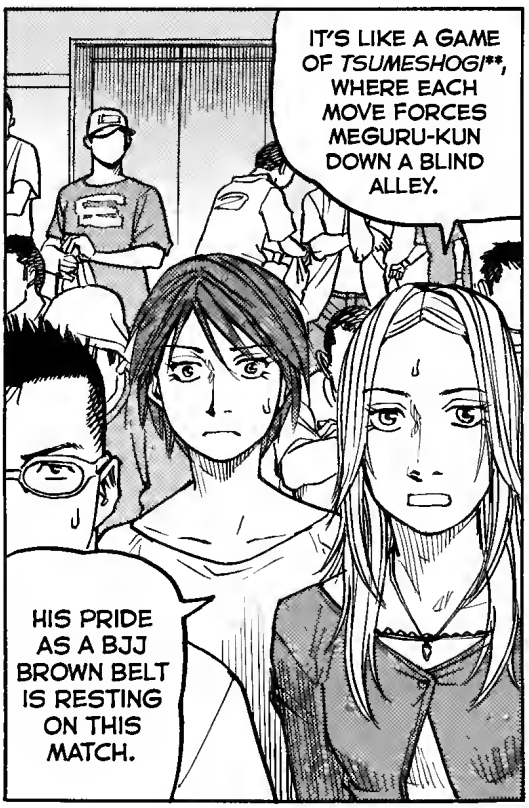

I'D SAY IT'S OVER NOW...
HE WAS TOTALLY AFTER HIS NECK...

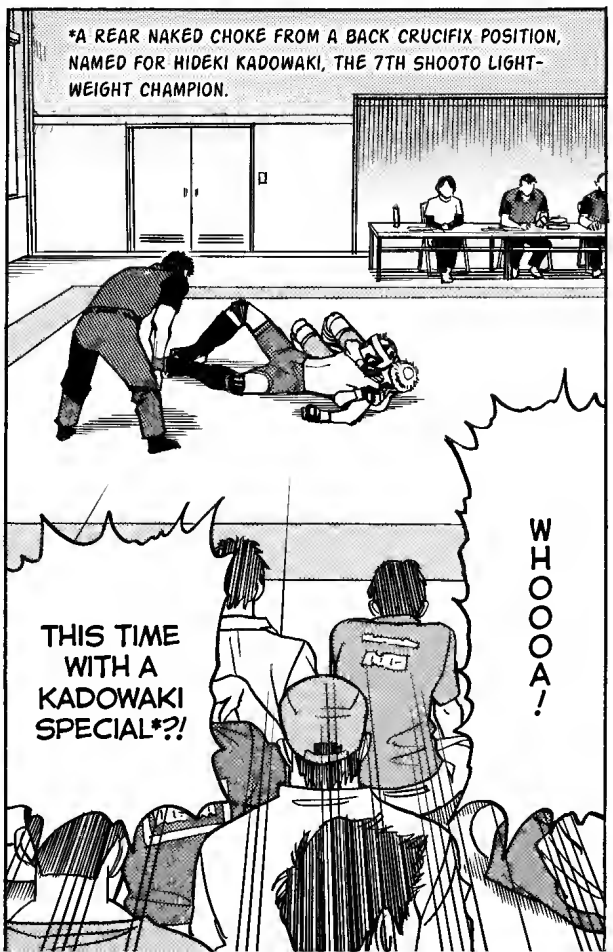
PLAY-TIME'S OVER, KIYOSHI!
TWO MIN-UTES LEFT!
FINISH HIM!
FIGHT, MEGURU!
FLAP
GET YOUR ARMS DOWN!
FLAP
"WHEN STANDING, GET UN-DERHOOKS SO YOUR OPPONENT CAN'T COME AROUND YOU."
HE'S SET UP HIS COUNTERS WITH THAT THEORY IN MIND.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE LEFT HIS SIDES OPEN ON PURPOSE TO DRAW MEGURU IN.
WITH THAT IN MIND, EVERY-THING UNTIL NOW...
...HAS BEEN A TRAP TO WEAR MEGURU-KUN OUT.
THAT BEING SAID...


HUFF
!
HUFF
GRAB
...BY MAKING SURE HE KEEPS MOVING...
...MEGURU-KUN IS KEEPING HIM FROM LOCK-ING IN THE SUBMISSION.
PUSH
WHOA!
GRAB
SKFFF

TAKE TOP POSITION, MEGURU!
HE WENT FOR A SINGLE-LEG TAKEDOWN?!
THUD
NOT SO FAST, ME-GURU-KUN!
I DID IT!


SQUEE
SWIPE
ROLL





**COMPOSED SCENARIOS FOR SHOGI (JAPANESE CHESS), SIMILAR TO CHESS PROBLEMS.

GASP
...TO GET A SUBMISSION ON MEGURU-KUN.
GASP
HUFF
HE'S GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...
HUFF
HUFF
GRAB
YOU'RE SO LOW ON OXYGEN YOU CAN'T CONCENTRATE ANYMORE, CAN YOU?
IT'S OVER!
YOUR LUNGS SCREAM WITH EVERY BREATH, DON'T THEY?
YOUR WHOLE BODY'S STIFF AS A BOARD FROM THE FLOOD OF LACTIC ACID, RIGHT?
GRIP
...

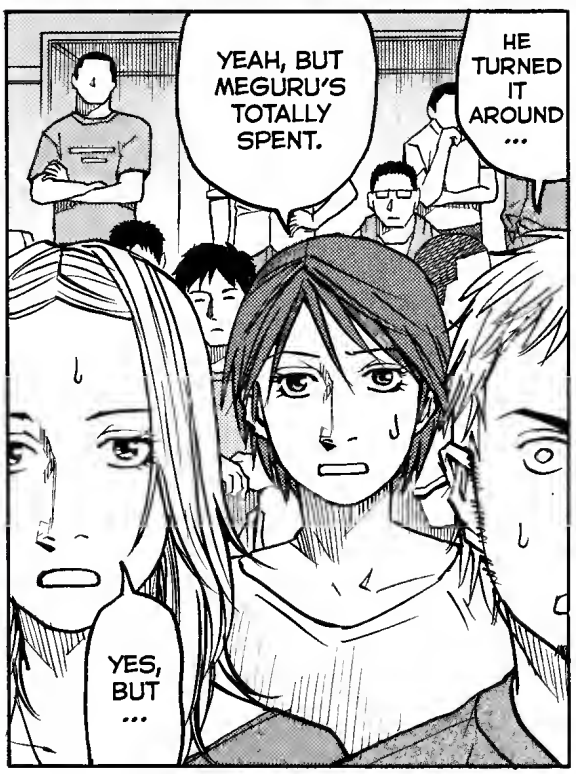
FWIP

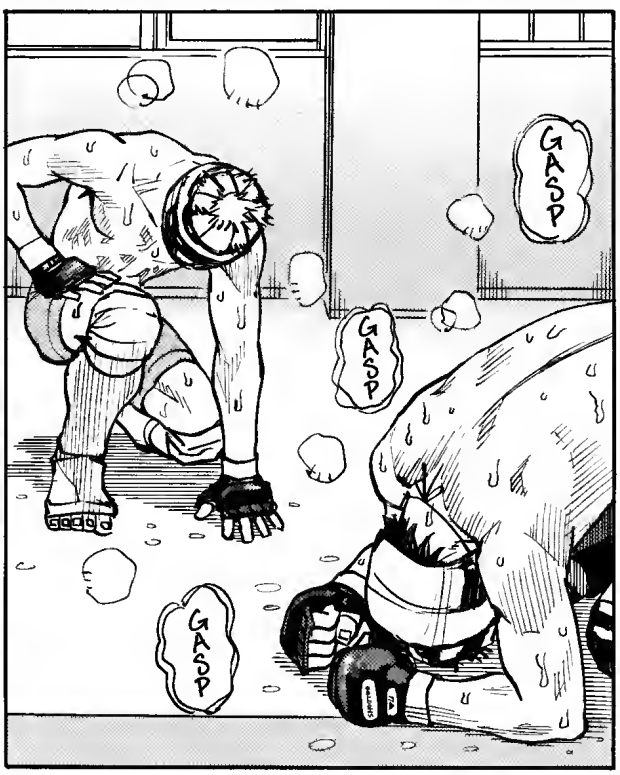
WHA?!

THMP

TCH!
FWIP
JUST KEEP MOVING!
COM-PARED TO ALL 84 KG OF NABE-SAN...
...HE'S LIGHT AS A FEATH-ER!
BELIEVE THAT!
FWIP

OUT OF BOUNDS!
BREAK!
SKFFFF
ザザザザザ


YEAH, BUT MEGURU'S TOTALLY SPENT.
HE TURNED IT AROUND ...
YES, BUT ...


GASP
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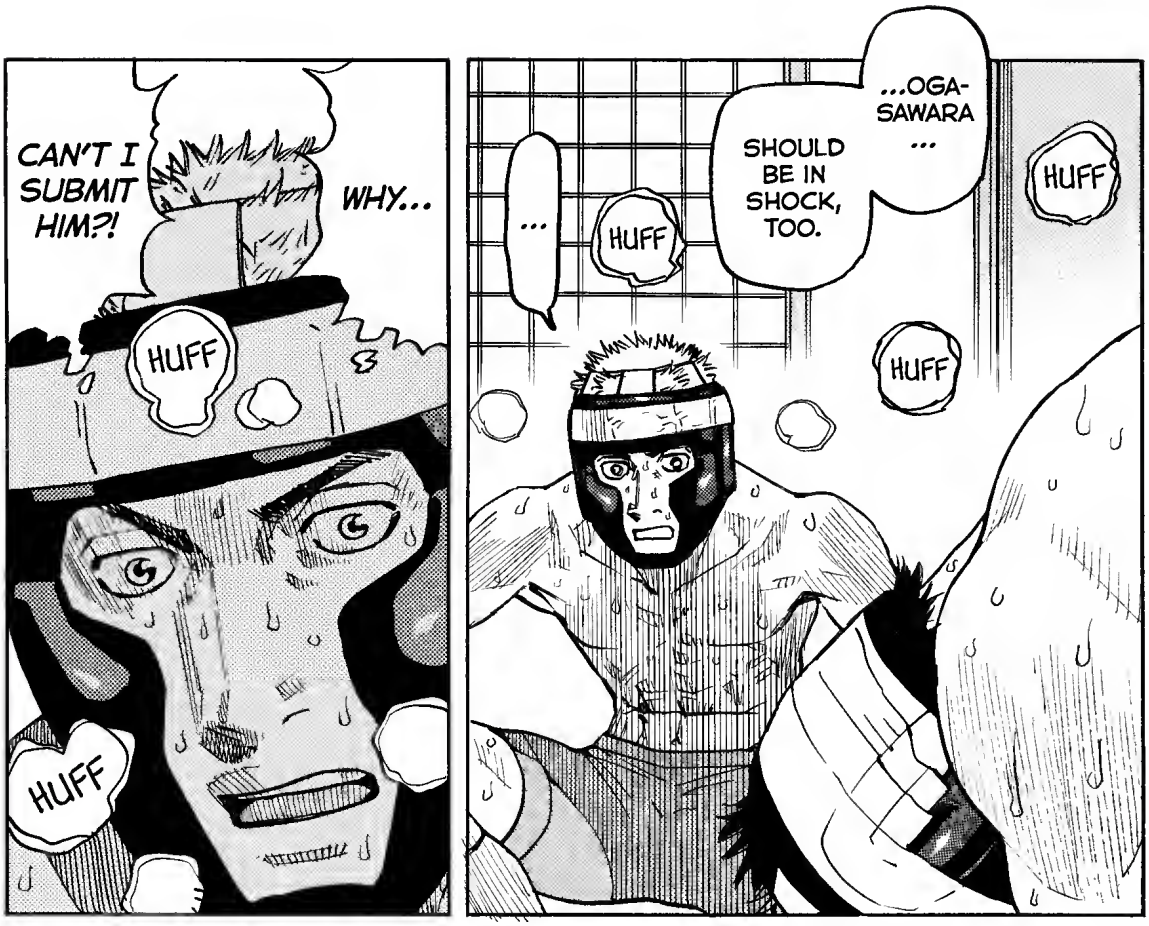

TO BE CONTINUED IN *ALL-ROUNDER MEGURU* VOLUME 5

All-Rounder Meguru 4

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